

# Mount Mercy Times

A student publication serving Mount Mercy University

Issue 1, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018

Courtney Hoffman/Times

Dr. Joy Ochs, professor of English, kicks off the Fall Faculty Series Aug. 29.



## Eco Focus



### Sustainability of Earth is Fall Series Theme

By Courtney Hoffman  
News Editor

In the fifth year since its inception, the Fall Faculty Series began on Aug. 29 with an overview presentation by Professor of English and Series Coordinator Joy Ochs.

This year's series, Sustainability: Human/Nature & the Future of the Earth will explore the consequences of both human action and inaction as we struggle with resource scarcity and environmental degradation.

"We're really going to be focusing on how this impacts humans, what

it means for humans, and solutions that will both serve humans and that we can come up with," Ochs said.

The series itself is an annual event running from August to mid-November. Weekly events feature faculty and guest speakers, who work together to share information and

start conversations on the theme of the year.

Ochs cites the Fall Faculty Series as an extremely important tool for sharing information inside the

◆ See Next Series Speaker  
page 9

### Inside the Times

#### Taming the Tigers

Men's soccer coach Amir Hadzic marked his 200th win in his Mustang career in a Sept. 3 2-1 home victory over Iowa Wesleyan. Photos of the game are on page 11.



#### Is it a Bird? A Plane? No-Here Comes Super Sophomore!

Second-year student Alexis Costello is almost done, ready for grad school, see "Snapshot" on page 12.



#### The Truth of Youthe

Chuck Uthe and Matt Trueblood are here to offer tongue-in-cheek advice to life's most pressing questions. Check out their first column, page 8.



## Heads up:

### Texas Pop Band Coming to UC

Musicians D & Chi will be coming to campus on Friday Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. They are an indie pop band from Dallas.

### Show Off Your Dance Moves

Show off your moves at Noche De Baile, hosted by Somos MMU. The event will be taking place on Friday Sept. 14 at 8:30 p.m. on the UC Patio.

### Climate Change Hits Home

Join the Cedar Rapids community to decide how best to react to climate change at the Rise for Climate Change Day of Action event in Greene Square on Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Sisters vs. Students

Play lawn games, listen to music, and play bingo with the Sisters of Mercy with a picnic dinner on Sept. 16 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### Issue 2 Sept. 27

The second issue of the MMU Times will be published Sept. 27. Any submissions are due Sept. 20—email the Times at times@mtmercy.edu. Any MMU student is welcome to join the staff of the Times. Let us know what you think of our new tabloid format!

## Click it:

### Market after Dark Inspires Review

Music at the recent Cedar Rapids Market After Dark moved one MMU student to reflect and write a review. View it at [www.carolineschronicles.com/761269320.wordpress.com/times.mtmercy.edu](http://www.carolineschronicles.com/761269320.wordpress.com/times.mtmercy.edu).

# New Clubs Planned

By **Caroline Groesbeck**  
Editor in Chief

Although the Student Government Association (SGA) hasn't registered any new clubs this year, there are a few clubs in the making.

Tiffany Leschke, director of student engagement, stated that this year, "We had 43 tables at the What's Your One? Involvement Fair. Last year we had only 28!"

Eleven clubs were formed last year, some of which were formed close to the end of the year. Billiards club, theatre club, and eco club are just a few of

these. In addition, six clubs are in the making for this semester. Most of these clubs are working on recruiting enough members to become registered with SGA and receive funding.

The six new clubs include chess club, mock trial, knitting club, student committee for nonviolence, H4H, and paint ball. These would be added to over 30 of Mount Mercy's registered student organizations. Registered student organizations do not include groups like the Mount Mercy Times, the Academic Center for Excellence, or work-studies.

# Find the One Thing That Can Excite You

On behalf of our entire community, I want to welcome you to Mount Mercy. Welcome to our new students—whether you're on campus or online. To our returning students, it's great to see you back on campus and in our online classrooms!

As I speak with our students and alumni, I continually hear a common theme: our strong sense of community. The Hill is where lifelong friendships are made and passions are discovered. It's where you'll learn from dedicated and expert faculty, committed coaches, talented staff, and from one another, both inside and outside the classroom.

This year, we're asking our community: What's your one? What's the one thing that gets you involved and keeps you active? What keeps you learning?

### Guest writer

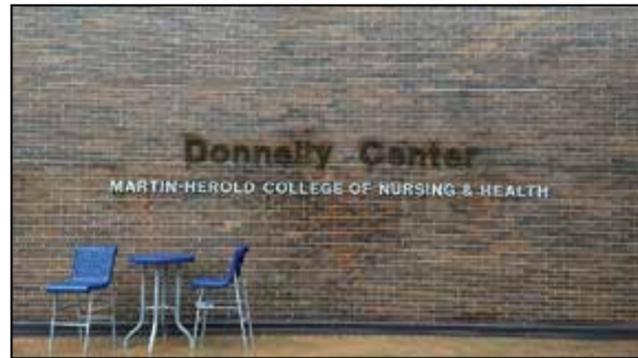


**Laurie Hamen**  
President

The options are limitless—peer tutoring, volunteerism, athletics, research, student organizations, intramurals, campus events, student publications, a deep dive into an academic subject you are passionate about—and the list goes on. Faculty and staff want to help you find your one, and I believe your success at MMU and beyond depends on it.

Statistics show that students who are involved in an organization, team, or their major graduate at higher rates than students who aren't involved. I suspect students with the deepest, most diverse community graduate and accomplish their dreams more often—regardless of their background, socioeconomic status, or ACT score.

I challenge you to find your one. Lean on your peers, mentors, coaches, and professors to become and stay involved, knowing you have the support of those who truly care about you and your success. This is where you truly find MMU community. Have a great year!



Marlon Flores-Paniagua/Times

New signs have been installed at the Donnelly Center to identify Mount Mercy University's first "college."

# MMU Forms First College for Nursing

## University's Martin-Herold College of Nursing and Health is Formed With Donation From Family

By **Nicole Carl**  
Staff Writer

The new nursing college is a big boost to all nursing programs. It gives students resources they would not otherwise have. This gives the nursing department not just a name, but a responsibility for Mount Mercy. This could be a path for other departments to become colleges as well.

Patricia Herold, Mark Herold, and Mount Mercy alumni Patrick Herold named the new college. The Herolds recognized the education Patrick Herold had received and wanted to contribute to the growth of Mount Mercy, as they've supported the college throughout the years.

A reason for the Herolds'

involvement stems from personal interest. Ron Herald plans to continue their involvement with Mount Mercy and attend a board meeting this October.

This new structure marks the beginning of the university's restructuring and the creation of different departments within those colleges.

"The Herolds' gift will enhance the vision for our nursing program, beyond our expectations," said Dean of the College Mary Tarbox.

The Martin-Herold College of Nursing and Health Organization will be different now with less required reports to the provost. Further changes include the addition of a dean.

**"The Herolds' gift will enhance the vision for our nursing program, beyond our expectations."**

Mary Tarbox

# MMU to Begin Renovations on New Athletic Center

By **Paige Toomer**  
Staff Writer

In a statement from Mount Mercy's archives, Paul Gavin, director of athletics, stated that "Providing a top-notch training and fitness center right next to our new outdoor athletic complex will improve our ability to serve our students-athletes, coaches, and the entire campus community"

This top-notch training and fitness center will be The Rinderknecht Athletic Center, a building that student-athletes have been requesting for years now as they need a place that will improve their health and wellness moving into their athletic careers.

The Rinderknecht Athletic Center will be a newly renovated state-of-the-art wellness center that is able to provide Mount Mercy's Community the support as well as the ability to improve each of their abilities as we move forward into our academic and athletic futures.

Nate Klein, vice president of student success, said that, "The Rinderknecht Athletic Center is more than what people expect, as they expect its more for the athletic teams when it is more like a wellness center for all of our students and all of our employees. This is an opportunity for us to really showcase our community and the priority we put on wellness."

The Rinderknecht Athletic Center is an old warehouse located at 909 17th St. NE purchased by John Rinderknecht, a long-term Mount Mercy trustee. In past statements from the Annual Report of Giving, John stated, "I

am honored to support the talented efforts of Mount Mercy's growing student-athlete population, as well as all the students, faculty, and staff with the renovation of the Rinderknecht Athletic Center."

Many others also helped with the center. That includes student-athletes on campus, Mount Mercy's Board of Trustees, Brenda Haefner, vice president of development, and her team, Gavin, Jack Dahm, head baseball coach, and the athletic coaches on Mount Mercy's campus.

Haefner stated that, "The final design will be completed by September 10 and the renovation will start in late September. Renovations are expected to be finished by June of 2019 before the next school year is to begin. We are grateful to John Rinderknecht and his associates as renovations for the athletic center begin."

The Rinderknecht Athletic Center is an important renovation to our community as it will provide the health and wellness to the students as they become tenser or stressed with their academics. The center will be a place where students, both athletes, and non-athletes can go to work out with weight-training facilities and state-of-the-art equipment.

Haefner stated that she is, "Most excited about the opportunity it's going to offer all of our students. It's an enhancement to our campus. It's a place where people can go whether they just want to walk briskly on a treadmill, take an exercise class or be there doing serious athletic training for their sport. It's going to be a place for all students."

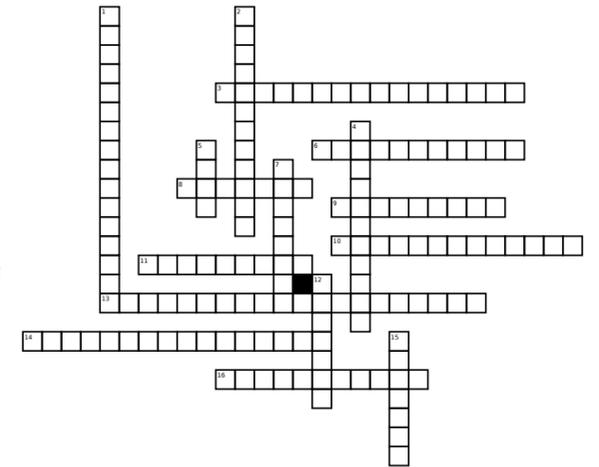
# MMU's 90th Birthday Crossword

### Down:

1. What is the name of the Grotto on campus?
2. Our University's Mascot
4. What is the name of the campus housing located off campus?
5. What athletic association are MMU athletes a part of?
7. What building has most of the Nursing classes?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Athletic complex
15. What country did the Sisters of Mercy originate from?

### Across:

3. Founder of the Sisters of Mercy
6. Which freshman housing hall was the built first?
8. What is the name of the restaurant located on campus?
9. Name of song used at graduation and convocation
10. What was the name of the land MMU was established on?
11. Name of oldest building on campus?
13. Who was Mount Mercy's first President? 14. the five \_\_\_\_\_ the university was founded



on (earth, immigration, nonviolence, racism and women)

16. Who is the current President of Mount Mercy?

(Puzzle written by Savannah Oler. Puzzle design copyright Education.com. Answers on Times web site, times.mtmercy.edu.)

# Tree of Life Takes Over Campus Bookstore Operation

By **Jada Veasey**  
Staff Writer

As a returning Mustangs may have noticed, the campus bookstore has gone through some changes since last year. The bookstore formerly operated by Mount Mercy itself is now operated by an outside company, Tree of Life Bookstores.

The change was no surprise for Bookstore Manager Janie Mills and Assistant Manager Teresa Wery. Mills said that the change "was in the works for years. The school was looking to do something different."

Mills also mentioned that many different companies, including Barnes and Noble, competed to be in charge of bookstore operations, but Tree of Life Bookstores won out in the end. Tree of Life

may have had the upper-hand in the bidding competition because many of the company's values align with those of Mount Mercy.

Wery said that the company produces a clothing brand called On Mission, and all the clothes are made out of ethically sourced fabrics from the United States. The brand donates some of the proceeds to a variety of causes, including to a charity that helps people who have aged out of orphanages in Haiti. The bookstore also sells a line of socks which donates proceeds to help the homeless.

Students may have noticed that the transition to Tree of Life Bookstores has changed the way that some services within the bookstore are provided.

"The bookstore is no longer self-serve, people can't take the

books off the shelves themselves now. That has to be handled up front, and we get the books from the back for you," said Mills.

Books can also be acquired through the Textbook Butler program, which automatically orders books for students and can even deliver the books straight to students' dorm rooms. Freshmen were automatically opted into the program when they enrolled at Mount Mercy, and many returning students chose to opt into the program as well.

When asked if there was anything else that students should know about the transitioning bookstore situation, both Mills and Wery emphasized that students should "try to understand the process."

## Say It Loud: 'Trump, We Disagree'

The New York Times has published an article written by an anonymous senior official of the White House. In the article, the writer refers to him or herself as part of the resistance, but not the resistance we have been hearing about from the left.

This resistance is more about stopping the president from abusing his power. To me, that sounds like a person doing their job the way they are supposed to, which isn't a resistance at all. They were selected to help govern our country based on what the majority of the people want.

The senior official goes on to say, "We want the administration to succeed and think that many of its policies have already made America safer and more prosperous."

The policy positions this anonymous official is praising are more than likely related to immigration and tax cuts.

I'd have to say putting children in cages has done literally nothing to make America

safer; I'd also like to think that the majority of Americans find it horrible.

There is also, in my opinion, a very good chance massive tax cuts to the wealthy will have the same effect they have had every single time they have been enacted: a recession.

In the end, the most disconcerting part of the article is as follows: "The root of the problem is the president's amorality. Anyone who works with him knows he is not moored to any discernible first principles that guide his decision making."

This is atypical of any president. I literally cannot think of a single other president in American history that wasn't guided by some set of beliefs. Thinking of the most recent two presidents, George W. Bush had his faith and

Barack Obama had his convictions. Trump has, according to this senior official, nothing guiding his policy choices and that is almost certainly at the heart of the chaotic

scene unfolding in Washington at the moment.

The chaos and uncertainty is likely why this official went the anonymous route; if you really want to make difference in politics you can't hide behind anonymity. You need to loudly stand up and say, "We disagree Mr. President."

### Opinion



**Logan Schroeder**  
Opinion Editor

**I ... cannot think of a single other president in American history that wasn't guided by some set of beliefs.**

## Sit a Spell and Enjoy New Swing

Hello Mustangs, Hand welcome to another year back on the Hill! Whether you're a returning student or just starting your time here at Mount Mercy, I'm looking forward to another amazing year.

Those of you returning to campus this year may notice some differences in our campus. One of the biggest differences outside is all the new furniture! Scattered throughout campus are tables, chairs, and even some swings! These make great places to sit and study, have a snack, or catch up with a friend. You can sit and watch sand volleyball from one of the swings or soak up some sun in one of the tall tables outside of Donnelly. We've also repainted the furniture we had before to match, and it's sitting in the quiet alcove between Lundy and McAuley.

If you wander down by the volleyball and basketball court, you may also notice the new grills that have been installed. These are perfect for

the fall nights we have coming up! Who doesn't love burgers and brats on the grill?

The big change inside is the lighting in the library. Have you been in there yet? It doesn't even feel like the same place! It's much brighter, and easier to see the books you need to study from. The library definitely seems much bigger and brighter, making it a better place to study. On top of that, the lights we put in are LED lights, making our campus much more sustainable and eco-friendly.

Of course, none of this work could have been done with our amazing Facilities workers. They put in the time and work to make sure the lights were changed, the furniture was put out, and the old furniture was painted. They even went out of their way to build small brick patios for some of the tables and for one of the swings. I want to thank them for their time and hard work on these projects, because without them, we would not have these amazing improvements.

With all these improvements, how can it not be a great year? Here's to 2018-2019, enjoy the year.

### Student government



**Abby Recker**  
SGA President

## Mount Mercy Times

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The Mount Mercy Times is a biweekly student publication serving MMU students, faculty, and staff and those close to the Mount Mercy University community. The Times is published on alternate Thursdays during the school year (each issue has a Thursday date, but the paper is usually distributed Wednesday).

In addition, the Times maintains a student-run website for the dissemination of additional news in various forms, including Times TV video stories.

Membership on the staff of the Times is open to any MMU student, full- or part-time, undergraduate or graduate.

Please attend one of our staff meetings, which are all open to the public, or contact an editor or our advisor for more information. Meetings will be announced in the paper, via social media and with on-campus posters

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 all individual Times staff members. Bylined commentaries and cartoons reflect the opinions of the writer or artist.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Letters should be concise, 300 words or less, and preferably emailed. The author's name, phone and address must be included. The name is published with the letter. Longer commentary, in the form of guest columns, is also encouraged. Besides the name, a photograph of the author is published with guest columns.

The Times reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. Letters and other submissions may be sent to the Times via email, campus mail or brought to

the Times office in the lower level of the Busse Library.

The Times sells advertising space. Advertisers are responsible for their own content, but the Times reserves the right to refuse an ad at its sole discretion.

The Mount Mercy Times will not print material found to be in poor taste or that it deems detrimental to a person's personal character. However, provocative comments on matters of public interest are encouraged.

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

**Mailing address:**  
Mount Mercy Times  
Busse Library, Lower Level  
1330 Elmhurst Drive NE  
Cedar Rapids IA 52402

**Web:** times.mtmercy.edu

**Email:** times@mtmercy.edu

## Who Are We Enemies of? Those Who Don't Respect Truth

In our current political climate where we have a president who claims the media is "enemies of the people," the MMU Times wants our reader base to understand that we are not your enemy, rather, we are serving you by presenting you with accurate, timely and important information to the best of our abilities.

Is the media considered enemies because we aim to inform and bring truthful information to our audience and read-

### Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

ers? Our curiosity and desire for sharing life as it happens here on the Hill are the forces that incline us to do what we do, regardless of Trump's tweets that might shame us for doing our job.

Mr. President, we take it personally. Journalists are not the enemies of the American people and the MMU Times is not the enemy of Mount Mercy. We have a role that you don't seem to grasp, although, based on your dismal record as shown by sites like Politifact, reality in this universe seems to be something you have trouble grasping, along with complex topics like

how to pronoun "anonymous."

So, MMU: Although we will strive to never be your enemy, MMU Times has some enemies of its own, that we probably have in common with many other media platforms.

The MMU Times is an enemy to inaccuracy, carelessness, and "fake news." We at carefully and accurately report true information as well as we can.

We think it is unfair to label the media as "enemies" just because they strive to report the truth of sometimes controversial topics. There are countless examples in

history where the media was in favor of people promoting truthfulness.

Of course, not all the media are careful and professional, but for the most part, American media are enemies of ignorance and deceit.

We are the flashlight in the dark, overwhelming tunnel of information. People don't always get to see what's in the tunnel unless they have that flashlight. We at the Mount Mercy Times are here to provide you with that flashlight to read and see for your own eyes.

## Heard on The Hill

What people are saying on topics of interest.

Quotes Recorded By Nicole Carl

Photo Credit/Marlon Edgardo Flores-Paniagua



### Father Tony Adawu

"I am excited about the students, excited to see different activities and their view. To see what others are excited about, I like getting to hear different views in my class. New students, new faces come with freshness and new talents. I can't wait to see how they will make Mount Mercy better, that for me is what it is about."



### Jessica Ertz, junior, business management and human resources

"The diversity of the classes that I am going to be taking is what I am excited about this year, also being an RA and meeting new people."



### Kaitlin Gregerson, senior, psychology and sociology

"I am excited to be involved and learn all I can before I leave Mount Mercy University. If I could I would stay here forever to learn."



### Nathan Acuff, sophomore, business management and religious studies

"I look forward to seeing the growth in myself and students over the year."



### Steven Matz, freshmen, history

"I am excited for show choir because it will be a different dynamic than high school and I look forward to being a part of band and university choir."

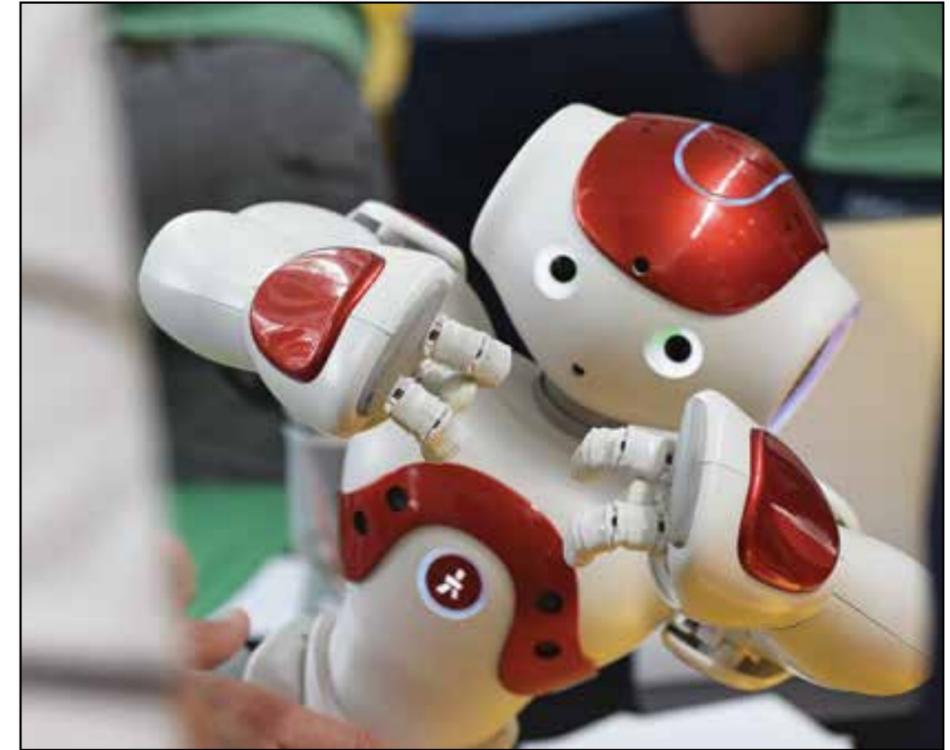
A new year is upon us and we are starting a brand new semester on the Hill. What are you most excited for during the school year and why?



Caroline Groesbeck/Times

A first-year student (above) receives high-fives from faculty, a Mount Mercy tradition at Founders Day Convocation (above). President Laurie Hamen welcomes the class of 2022 (right).

# Kicking Off A New MMU Year



## Provost to Class of 2022 at Convocation: 'Values Are Your GPS Through Life'

By Madelyn Orton  
Managing Editor

The class of 2022 attended a Founders Day Convocation ceremony on Monday, Aug. 20 in the Chapel of Mercy.

New Provost Dr. Tim Laurent welcomed the students and gave a brief oration about values.

"Values are your GPS through life," he said.

Sister Linda Bechen informed the class of 2022 about the history of Mount Mercy's campus and its founder, Sister Catherine McAuley.

Throughout the duration of the ceremony, the hymn, 'Circle of Mercy' was sung multiple times.

The most interactive part of the ceremony was when current students embedded throughout the crowd, stood up and addressed how they worked to tackle the Sisters of Mercy critical concerns of earth, nonviolence, racism, women and children, and immigration.

Among these students were the president of the Eco Club and Black Student Union, as well as an alumnus who talked about his experience as an advocate for

immigrants.

President Laurie Hamen addressed the students and gave the freshman this advice: "Study like the world depends on it, because it does."

The ceremony concluded with a brief message from Nate Klein, vice president of student affairs.

"You've come to a place where you're not just a number," Klein said.

The freshman then proceeded out of the building, and took part in one of Mount Mercy's many traditions – high-fiving the faculty as they walked out.



### Fact About Class of 2022

During Founders Day Convocation, Dr. Time Laurent, provost, noted the following information about MMU first-year students:

- 22 percent are in the top 10 percent of class
- 3.45 average GPA
- 22 average ACT score
- 13 different states
- 6 different countries.



Caroline Groesbeck/Times

Sophomore Megan Croghan (top) receives her nursing student white coat during the White Coat Ceremony Sept. 7 in the Chapel of Mercy. Putting the coat on her is Cahty Penn, associate professor of nursing.



Ekaterina Rangelova/Times

The annual involvement fair, Aug. 21, gave MMU students a chance to learn about the many clubs and organizations available. A robot (above) dances on command at the fair. Club officers (above) explain their group. Students (left) stack cups up to the second floor of the Sisters of Mercy University Center, where the fair was held.

# Valuable Life Advice:

## Writers Plan To Answer Your Questions, As Long As You Don't Take It Too Seriously

### The Truth of Youthe



Chuck Uthe and Matt Trueblood  
Sages and Staff Writers

Dear Reader,  
Have you ever had a question but didn't know who to ask? Have the subtleties of society largely evaded your comprehension? Are there any questions you've always wanted to ask or need to know the answer to?

Well, we'd like to introduce "The Truth of Youthe," a bi-weekly comedy advice column for the Mount Mercy Times.

My name is Matt Trueblood, junior communications and graphic design major. I'm a

young, flannel-clad idiot, president of the improv club, and personal record holder for Most Disturbances of the Peace in the Dining Hall.

And my name is Chuck, Charles, the Chaz Uthe. I'm a senior English major with a

creative writing minor. I'm also the president of the gaming club and the vice president of Nerds of the Round Table. I'm a film fanatic who can't shut up about pop culture references. I also hold the World Record for From How Many Miles Away Can You Still

Hear That Guy?

Together we will seek to answer your questions and resolve your issues. We probably won't know the right answer, but we will give you advice nonetheless!

Send your anonymous submissions via email (mtrueblood5913@mtmercy.edu or times@mtmercy.edu) or @ChuckUthe on twitter! We look forward to receiving your questions!

And as always, don't antagonize the squirrels.

# Butterflies Find Home in New Rain Garden

By Rob Brown  
Staff Writer

The installation of new rain gardens outside of Warde Hall lead Rachael Murtaugh, director of sustainability, to adopt native butterflies.

Earlier in September, Murtaugh was locating places to install rain gardens around Warde Hall, when she noticed monarch caterpillars.

"The main purpose of rain gardens is to mitigate storm water run-off and introducing more native plants on campus," Murtaugh said. Among the native plants in a garden installed this

summer were some milkweed, which are the only plant that supports Monarch caterpillars to eat, and start their chrysalis.

Murtaugh was worried that there was not enough milkweed to sustain the caterpillars, as they had eaten down the young plants. So, she decided to remove the caterpillars and raise them in her office.

When she initially found a caterpillar, she thought there was one, but after a closer look, she found 12 monarch caterpillars.

"This is incredible; the garden is only a couple of months old and we already have species com-



ing back," says Murtaugh. With the help of some plastic cups from Basile Beans, Murtaugh brought the caterpillars to her office to ensure they were being fed and

that the caterpillars were protected in their chrysalis.

Murtaugh has since released all of the monarch butterflies successfully, right down to the last

Rob Brown/Times

Rachel Murtaugh, director of sustainability, with an enclosure for Monarch butterflies in her office (left). A clear chrysalis (below) holds a young butterfly about to emerge.



butterfly named "Leo."

She does want to help bring back other species to the Mound. She has noted that the presence of gold finches and other birds have been seen on campus since the rise of the flower beds containing natural wild flowers on campus.

## MMU Staff Accepts Empty Can Challenge

By Courtney Hoffman  
News Editor

In cooperation with sustainability efforts on campus, Joy Ochs, the coordinator of this year's Fall Faculty Series and professor of English is teaming up with Director of Student Engagement Tiffany Leschke, Director of the Office of Sustainability Rachael Murtaugh and Office of Sustainability Graduate Assistant Jessica Hiney in the Empty Can Challenge.

"This semester we're focusing on waste reduction and just to bring awareness to that, the four of us are going to try to go one week without throwing anything in the garbage can," Ochs said.

They hope to draw attention to the number of plastic containers and single-use items people throw away every week and to engage the whole campus in waste reduction.

The challenge itself will span from Sept. 9 to Sept. 15 with a rule that products can only be used if they're recyclable, reusable, or compostable.

To help achieve this goal, Ochs, Murtaugh, Hiney, and Leschke have created their own eco-friendly products like laundry detergent, tooth paste, body

lotion, mouth wash, reusable sandwich bags and many others.

Parts of the challenge will be broadcast on Facebook Live, and all four plan to post updates throughout the week on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The challenge itself goes beyond just staff involvement; Ochs, Murtaugh, Leschke, and Hiney encourage students to join them in the Empty Can Challenge.

"We'll put it up on social media so you guys can laugh at us, you can root for us or even get tips from us, but if you want to continue this conversation, we're going to be taking that on and hopefully challenging the rest of the community," Ochs said.

"There'll be pictures and videos and little tips and we might do some daily challenges," Murtaugh added. "And then you can post your videos, pictures, and comments and see how far we can go with it."

To follow or join in on the Empty Can Challenge, follow MMU Sustainability on Facebook, @GreenMMU on Twitter, and sustainmmu on Instagram.

**Editor's Note:** Reporter Rob Brown contributed to this article.

## Next Series Speaker Sept. 18 to Cover Pope Francis Statement

◆ Eco Focus  
from page 1

community—because it's open to faculty, students, and the community, it's possible to start meaningful conversations on topics of interest.

"I've been here 18 years. This is the first thing that just organically was created by the faculty out of pure interest; for faculty from all different departments to focus their expertise on one topic. And because it's open to students, staff, community members, everybody gets to be a part of exploring the topic."

Though sustainability has been brought up as a possible series topic before, it was timed for 2018 in part so it would better align with the three-year Mount Mercy Sustain project.

Efforts on campus to live more sustainably include the switch to LED lights in the library, the creation of rain gardens, new trees being planted, changes to the sustainability curriculum, and inclusion of guest speakers on campus. Ochs emphasized the importance of sustainable living in her series overview.

"We're seeing all kinds of environmental crises that are coming about because we're not behaving sustainably," she said.

These crises include massive forest fires, intense storms, and more—all of this can be traced back to what Ochs calls "climate disruptions." As of Aug. 1, 2018 we've officially used up more resources than the Earth can generate—placing us in global overshoot. This combined with the pollution of our oceans, land, air, and atmosphere puts us in a very dangerous place.

"There are three major impacts," said Ochs. "One of the consequences is loss of life. People are losing their lives to these unnecessary systems. Loss of livelihood with land that can no longer be farmed, and loss of goods, property, and things that we value in a monetary way."

Other speakers will cover theological reasons to encourage sustainability, climate change and why climate denial exists, the political climate, sustainability in Iowa, and the life cycle of the items we use in our daily lives.

All Fall Faculty Series events begin at 7 p.m. in Flaherty Community Room (204 Basile Hall). The next event, Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*: Harmony with the Natural Order and the Dignity of Creatures will be hosted by Brian Cross, assistant professor of religious studies on Sept 18. For more information about the series and upcoming events, visit <http://mtmercy.informaticsinc.com/human-nature>.

Caleigh McGuire/Times

At their unofficial home opener Sept. 4 in the Hennessey Recreation Center, the Mustangs go up against Culver Stockton. The Mustangs continued a seven-game winning streak with a victory.



## Dig It

### Stopko Sets New MMU Record

By Mahlon Steepleton  
Sports Editor

Senior Lauren Stopko set the all-time digs record for the Mount Mercy women's volleyball team on the weekend of Aug. 24-25.

The Mustangs played in St. Xavier/Trinity Christian Crossover in Chicago and Palo Heights, Illinois. Stopko is one of the six senior captains on the team this year. Coach Deb Marlin picked each senior to represent the team this year.

"I think she has confidence in each of our leadership abilities on and off the court," Marlin said. Stopko broke the record of

"It was such a huge accomplishment beating my coach's record, not only because she's my coach but also because she was a huge stud back when she played."

Lauren Stopko, senior

Brittany Burmahl, assistant coach, who previously held a record of 1,926 digs. Stopko has now 1,927 digs.

"To be honest, I didn't know how close I was on the record in the first place, so I was surprised when I found out that morning it was announced," Stopko said.

"It was such a huge accomplishment beating my coach's record, not only because she's my

coach but also because she was a huge stud back when she played," Stopko said. Stopko is excited for this upcoming season and wants the team to play together as a whole.

The Mustangs' next two home games are Friday, Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 15 at 2 p.m. Both games will be played at the Hennessey Recreation Center.



Caleigh McGuire/Times

The Mustangs swept Culver-Stockton on Sept. 4.

## Ertz Is First for Women at Gallop

Mahlon Steepleton  
Sports Editor

The men's and women's cross-country teams competed in the 25th annual Mustang Gallop at Seminole Valley Park on Friday, August 31st. It was the Mustangs first meet of the season.

The men's team ran a 5k and the women's team ran a 4k. Annie Ertz finished the 4k first

for the Mustangs and first overall with a winning time of 15:55. While James Lindstrom led the men's team to a second place team finish. Lindstrom went first for the Mustangs and finished fifth overall with a time of 15:50.

Aaron Golding finished second on the team and seventh overall with a time of 16:43 for the 5k.

"I'm excited to be able to have a good team chemistry and to be able to run at nationals

as a team on our home course in November," Golding said.

"With the team chemistry, it helps us look out for one another and makes us feel like our team is a family," Golding said.

The Mustangs also captured the Coe-Stang trophy, an annual dual between Mount Mercy University and Coe College.

The Mustangs' next home meet is on Saturday October 6, at Seminole Valley Park.

## 200 for Hadzic

Rob Brown/Times

On Sept. 3, the Mustangs mens soccer team beat Iowa Wesleyan 2-0, giving Head Coach Amir Hadzic his 200th career win.



## Women Battle Cross-Town Rivals to Hard-Fought Tie

Doriann Whitlock  
Staff Writer

Mount Mercy women's soccer team tore up the field in spite of heavy rainfall experienced recently.

On Sept. 5 at Clark Field, the Mustangs faced off with the Kohawks on their turf. In the end, the teams tied 0-0, even after overtime.

During the second half, neither Mount Mercy nor Coe yielded an inch, the game became an all out battle. Each player went head to

head.

MMU and Coe battled for an extra 20 minutes in overtime. Teammates were shouting words of encouragement as players raced across the field. Coe came back with two attempts to make a goal. Up until the last possible second, both teams fought to come out ahead.

The three senior captains of the women's soccer team—Sam Blowers, Olivia Ramsey, and Megan Hall—agreed that their team is a group of women from very different backgrounds and

places to play a game that they love with determination and hard work. They are not alone in their excitement this season.

"Being the coach of our women's soccer team has given me the wonderful opportunity to witness the growth of each young lady as a player and individual," said Raven McMurrin, head coach. "They are a group of young women who support each other and have the capability for exponential growth on and off the field."

## Higher Wages for NBA Players Reflect Real World Economic Reality

I hate to be that guy but I'll just come out and say it: WNBA players do not deserve to be paid the same as NBA players. It sounds harsh, but is just the reality.

Don't get me wrong, the women in the WNBA are skilled and very much professionals. The problem is that the WNBA does not bring in enough fans and money to equal NBA wages.

The 30 teams in the NBA combined for about \$7.37 billion for the 2016-2017 season. NBA players make an average \$6.4 million dollars, and the average WNBA player makes about \$75,000 dollars.

To again put the wage gap in perspective, let's

take a look at the fans.

An average NBA game brings in about 17,000 fans compared to an average fan total of 7,500 fans for the WNBA. That is a big gap. Another thing to look at is the WNBA regular season is 34 games and the NBA season is 82 games.

More recently I have been seeing WNBA players saying that some players in the NBA do not deserve the money they make. I get that WNBA players want higher wages, and I do think they deserve better pay. But bashing other basketball players is not the way to go.

So, the NBA plays more games, brings in more fans and makes more money. Gender discrimination is real, but in this case, higher NBA salaries are driven by other realities.

### Opinion



Barry Doe  
Staff Writer

## Mercy & Mission Week 2018



Embracing  
Mercy  
Anew: Care  
of the Earth



Sept. 16-Sept. 23

**Sunday, Sept. 16: Creating Community**

4:00 PM Lawn Games, Music & Bingo with the Sisters | Green Space  
5:00 PM Picnic | Rohde Plaza

**Monday, Sept. 17: Connecting our Story with the Mercy Story**

12:30 PM Lunch & Untold Stories of MMU with Sr. Mary Lou | Flaherty (204 Basile)

RSVP by Sept. 14: [mziesser@mtmercy.edu](mailto:mziesser@mtmercy.edu)

3:30 PM Historical Walk with Kristy Raine | Meet at the UC Info Desk  
8:30 PM Learn S'more about your Peer Ministers | Fire Pit

**Wednesday, Sept. 19: Extending Mercy from the Local to the Global**

12:30 PM Lunch 'N Learn with Rachael Murtaugh | Flaherty (204 Basile)

RSVP by Sept. 14: [mziesser@mtmercy.edu](mailto:mziesser@mtmercy.edu)

**Thursday, Sept. 20: Building Relationships Across Barriers**

10:00 AM Rain Garden Installation | Warde Hall  
6:00 PM Dinner & "All in One-Connecting the Critical Concerns" with Sr. Cora Marie Billings | Betty Cherry

RSVP by Sept. 14: [mziesser@mtmercy.edu](mailto:mziesser@mtmercy.edu)

**Friday, Sept. 21: Celebrating Who We Are**

1:45 PM International Day of Peace Celebration | Peace Pole, Rohde Plaza

3:00 PM Catherine's Birthday Party/90th Anniversary | Campus Ministry Lounge

5:00 PM Dr. Brea Banks | Chapel of Mercy

8:00 PM Gala | University Center

**Sunday, Sept. 30: Caring for One Another**

1:00 PM Food Packaging Event with Homecoming, Alumn Week

# Sophomore or Senior?

## Second-Year Student Nears Degree

By Caroline Groesbeck  
Editor in Chief

Even though she started at Mount Mercy as a first-year last year, Alexis Costello is about to graduate with a major in operations management and two minors in criminal justice and economics.

With about 10 different commitments, besides school, Costello has a full workload. Currently, she is balancing these activities with 18 credits worth of classes and 25 hours of her two part-time jobs.

"I came in with 36 credit hours," Costello said. "And then I took 15 credits over the summer, three of those were my internship, so I still fit that in."

She went on to say that she also worked around 50 hours a week this summer. Most would shy away from a heavy load like this, but Costello has found coping mechanisms.

"If it gets to a point—if it hits 1 a.m.—and I still can't get things done, I just go to bed," said Costello. "I will get it done in the morning or it just won't get done, but at that point sleep's more important than a grade."

### SNAPSHOT

Meet the people  
on The Hill

#### Alexis Costello

Costello didn't always push herself as much as she does now. "In high school, it kind of depended," she said,

"If I knew I couldn't do it, I would just back down really quick so then it didn't look like I failed. I always looked like I achieved things, when really, I could have pushed myself further, probably."

When classes were winding down last year, Costello decided to begin a plan to pursue a Master's degree.

"I'm getting a Master's degree because last spring I sat down with my mom and I was like, 'I think I can do it.' And she said, 'Alexis, honestly I never thought you would get less than a



Caroline Groesbeck/Times

Alexis Costello pauses briefly on the central campus greenspace to have her picture taken during a walk to class. Although she graduated from high school in 2017, she's on track to near her bachelor's degree by May, 2019.

Master's degree.' And I literally started crying, I was like, oh my God! She thought that about me!"

While Costello doesn't have clear plans for the future, she knows the basics. "I want to get married and have kids and eventually be able to provide for my family," she said. "I want to be happy."

# Environment is the Focus of Mercy Week

## Event in 2018 Includes Packing Food, Lunch and Learns, Various Speakers

By Stephanie McDonald  
Staff Writer

Mercy Week will once again bring students opportunities to come together and celebrate Mount Mercy heritage. The annual event will focus on sustainability this year.

Mercy Week will offer several educational and recreational activities throughout the week. Sister Linda, vice president for mission and ministry, said Mercy Week is "an opportunity to immerse themselves in the mission of the Sisters of Mercy."

The event lasts from Sept. 16 to Sept. 30, ending with a food packaging event to highlight food sustainability. 100 volunteers are needed to package 10,000 meals. This will be occur in Betty Cherry Heritage Hall at 1 p.m.

Sept. 17 will include a lunch and learn opportunity at 12:30 p.m. where Sister Mary Lou Podzimek will talk about some of the untold stories of Mount Mercy in Basile 204. Another lunch and learn will happen on Sept. 19 in Basile 204.

Lastly, there will be a dinner and keynote from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Betty Cherry on Sept. 20. Celebrations for Catherine McAuley's birthday and the school's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will include cake and conversation in the Campus Ministry Lounge on Sept. 21.

Intermediate Ivy by Savannah Oler

