

Mount Mercy Times

A student publication serving Mount Mercy University

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Maraleen Ruiz-Díaz/Times

Dr. J. Matthew Ashley, a professor from Notre Dame University, speaks on the perceived conflict between Christian Faith and evolution on March 30 in the Chapel of Mercy.

Evolution vs. Faith

Theologian Says Fight is Often Proxy



By Maraleen Ruiz-Díaz
Staff Writer

Fights over the teaching of evolution in science are often proxies for other political battles, and don't always reflect how some Christian thinkers view scripture, said a Notre Dame theologian on March 30.

J. Matthew Ashley, a professor of systematic theology at Notre Dame

University, on March 30 at 7 p.m. gave a lecture in the Chapel of Mercy about the coexistence between faith and evolution.

His presentation, entitled "From Dayton to Dover: What Have We Learned About Evolution and Christian Faith?" is part of the 2019 spring lecture series, "Faith/Reason/Science: Friend or Foes?" The series concludes April 11 with a 7 p.m.

presentation by Fr. David Vincent Meconi, associate professor at Saint Louis University, who will speak on "The Ultimate Appeal to Humanity, Fides et Ratio and the Fulfillment of All Desire."

Ashley noted that our arguments

◆ See Scripture, Tradition
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Professor: Iowa Bill Would Weaken Social Work Licensing

By Logan Schroeder
Opinion Editor

Iowa's social work licensing system would be dismantled under a bill proposed in the Iowa House.

Joni Howland, associate professor of social work and director of the social work program, outlined the consequences of HF 752.

"In most instances, licensure from one state is recognized by another," Howland said. "If de-licensure occurred, with certification utilized in its place, social workers who move will be disadvantaged."

She said the current system is flexible.

"If one of our students becomes licensed in Iowa upon graduation and learns of a job in Wisconsin, they will most likely be able to transfer the license without the expense and stress related to taking licensure exam courses," said Howland.

The National Association of Social Workers has fought against this type of bill multiple times, and Howland has stated that "The legislature attempted to pass a similar bill a couple of years ago but received significant push-back from a number of professions."

In Iowa now, social workers are required to have at least a bachelor's degree. Most jobs require a masters, according to socialworkguide.org.

This bill could potentially open up the field for under or unqualified individuals. "Consumer protection is of primary concern," said Howland.

Inside the Times

New Editor

Veronica Jons named the new editor-in-chief. Story on page 2.



Maternity Leave Forum Held

Students talked about legislature concerning parental leave on March 27. Story on page 3



Students Talk about Motivation

See how to keep motivated as the semester wraps up. Story on page 5.



Lecturer and Father

Becoming a sperm donor in the '80s led a campus speaker to meet his own child years later. Story on page 6.

Jons Named New Editor-in-Chief of *Mount Mercy Times*

By Mahlon Steepleton
Sports Editor

An MMU first-year student majoring in criminal justice and journalism was named editor-in-chief of the Mount Mercy Times for 2019-2020.

Veronica Jons was selected by the Board of Student Publications to lead Mount Mercy's student newspaper.

"I can't wait for all the great things the team will accomplish next year."

Veronica Jons

"I am eager at the opportunity that I am getting to innovate new ideas for the Mount Mercy Times newspaper and to continue my passion for writing," she said.



"I would like to do more social media and website articles. I hope by doing this, there will be more student engagement involving the paper," Jons said.

Jons is active on campus. "I am double majoring in criminal justice and journalism with a minor in creative writing," she said. "I am also an athlete on the dance team, director of public relations for SGA, I'm in ECO club, cook-

ing club and Dance Marathon, head director of Homecoming, and a writer for MMU Times."

Now that an editor has been named, the newspaper will recruit the rest of the staff.

"I am looking forward to working with all the amazing staff writers and editors next year," Jons said. "I want to make this paper a huge success! I can't wait for all the great things the

Veronica Jons, sophomore, will step in as the new editor in chief of the Mount Mercy Times next year.

team will accomplish next year."

Jons enjoys some leisure activities at MMU, too. "My favorite thing to do on campus is to sit on the swinging bench and read on a sunny day in between classes," she said.

Even though she is a freshman Jons says she has loved her time spent at Mount Mercy University.

"It's the connection you get with the faculty and staff, coming here made me feel like I was at

home because it was a family like atmosphere," Jons said. "I can't believe the amount of connections and friendships I have made here that will last a lifetime."

If you are interested in working for the Mount Mercy newspaper for next year, please contact faculty advisor Joe Sheller at his email jsheller@mtmercy.edu for more information.

"There is a brief, one-page application form," Sheller said. "Once you have applied, Veronica and I will speak with you about your role at the Times." Students of any major are encouraged to apply.

Scripture, Tradition, Science Work Together

◆ **Scripture, Tradition**
from page 1

over evolution sometimes represent something else. "Evolution gets associated with difficult arguments that we are having in American politics and culture" he said.

Ashely stated that in our democracy we struggle, parochially, over how to balance individual rights on one hand and majority rules on the other hand. Ashley then related this statement with the Scopes Trial, Dover Trial, and the more recent debates of evolution vs. faith in school system.

"When you run into one of these heated debates over the issue between science and religion, ask yourself whether it

might not be a proxy fight for some other political, civic, cultural issue that we are worrying about," said Ashley.

Ashley's next point was that there is a long-standing set of principles in the Christian tradition in thinking about the issue. Ashley then mentioned St. Augustine of Hippo, and how he believed that not all the books in Genesis could be taken literally, at least not in a straightforward manner.

"Christians should not commit themselves stubbornly to an interpretation that would require believing things in the natural world that could be shown to be false by human reason," as stated by St. Augustine.

Ashley said some Christians

see both scripture and tradition as source of religious truth, and said tradition is the ongoing reflection of the word of God, given in the Bible, passed down through generations.

Ashley's last point is an explanation of divine providence in a "chancy" universe. Ashley explained that God made things with a purpose and a reason; that God is the magnificent watchmaker and is present in all things. There is no reason why God did not play a part in evolution, just as he did with the creation of the universe.

"Even on the issue of evolution, science, the Christian faith, and philosophy have a lot to teach each other," stated Ashley.

SHADOW STATIONS
OF THE CROSS

April 15th at 8pm
In the Chapel of Mercy

A unique take on Jesus' journey through Jerusalem to the cross.

Mission & Ministry

Wall Shows Next Phase of Library/Ed Center Project

By Rob Brown
Staff Writer

Due to a donation, Busse Library has been undergoing many changes to become the home of the Wenthe Education Center. The construction of a wall started during spring break, allowing for outline of the center to begin.

Library staff had a deadline to empty the upper back portion of the first floor on March 15. Rinderknecht construction then came in and built a wall to enclose the construction site while the school year is still in session. Renovations will start at the end of spring semester and may partially go into the upcoming fall semester.

Because of the noise renovations can bring, the construction has been limited to times that students will not be distracted.

The current plans of the center, which are subject to change, will house four new class rooms, one conference room and 10 faculty offices. Prior to the construction, the library staff removed all the books from this area of the library and dismantled the shelving. The shelving was donated to Camp Courageous in Monticello, Iowa (a non-profit organization) and Mount Mercy employees were also able to claim shelving.

These shelves were donated to help the camp in their new year-round garage sale in Manchester, Iowa. A total of 63,000 books were moved around during this time to make room for the center. Faculty were asked to come to the library to identify what

should be kept. Faculty and staff then helped move the books.

"We had religion faculty come and look at their books, business faculty came as well, and so on," said Kristy Raine, director of library services. "They were asked to look at the materials they thought we should keep. This could be material they currently teach, materials that are obsolete; which books we absolutely didn't need to keep, and books that we should keep but weren't necessarily something we should keep on the shelves taking up space. These books were placed in storage."

When the library made a decision to delete a book, they looked at several factors. This included who wrote the book, when it was published, when it had last been checked out and the number of other libraries that have the book. During the downsizing of the collection, each of the 63,000 books were touched at least three times before its final decision was made.

The library was able to weed out approximately 18,000 books. Some of the books were set out for students, a few books were donated, and the majority of books that were let go were discarded to be recycled.

"When we have books that are outdated and obsolete or the research is no longer valid, we let them go out for recycling," Raine said. "Paperbacks went out as is. Hard bound books were removed of their covers before sent to recycling, a total of 9,000 to 10,000 books were recycled."



No Fooling

April 1 Images of Spring on The Hill

Courtney Hoffman/Times

We're waiting to spot the first blooms on The Hill, but swelling buds, the green shoots of future flowers and busy animals show what we all want to know: Spring is here! A squirrel in the grotto (top) peers at a Times photographer. Magnolia buds by Warde Hall swell, and ducks stand near the Grotto pond.

Panel Discusses Lack of Support for Maternity Leave in the U.S.

By Jessica Abdoney
Staff Writer

The United States' lack of appreciation for women when it comes to paid maternity leave and healthcare was the main topic of conversation at the Leaving a Part of Me Behind discussion group, held March 27 at 11:30 a.m. in Flaherty. It was led by Erin Broich, director of ministry and service.

The discussion group focused on the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), gender roles, and the stigma surrounding maternity leave.

"The main goal is just to talk about something that affects people at Mount Mercy and everywhere, and have a conversation around a subject that people may not be comfortable to have in the workplace," Broich said.

Currently, the United States is the only developed country with no federal paid leave, with one in four women returning to work within two weeks of giving birth.

FMLA was passed in 1993 by President Clinton, however 44 percent of Americans (114 million people) are still not covered by this act.

Broich discussed that the FMLA is also a racial justice and inclusion issue. FMLA fails to protect minority families with 71 percent of African American families ineligible for paid maternity leave. FMLA only protects biological mothers and disregards LGBTQ and adoptive families.

Broich examined the benefits of paid maternity and parental leave, stating that it protects and supports the most vulnerable communities in

our society. Parents with access to paid leave are 40 percent less likely to receive public assistance.

The majority of the discussion group were women and were in agreement that, as mothers, they felt like they were not given enough postpartum assistance nor time to recover from birth.

The discussion group also discussed gender roles and toxic masculinity. One of their points was that men should be considered in parental leave as well, and that it affects their bonding and fatherhood experience.

Broich encouraged the group to check implicit biases when it comes to maternal leave and fathers who choose to stay at home, and also to challenge policies around family and health care.

First Amendment Does Job Well

Gov. Kim Reynolds has signed a bill meant to protect free speech on publicly fund-

ed college campuses. The bill passed with some bipartisan support in the Iowa Senate, and was not supported by any Democrats in the Iowa House of Representatives.

We at the Mount Mercy Times are strong advocates of free speech as a student news organization. We are part of a private institution so this bill will not affect us in any meaningful way, but it doesn't send the right message to young or marginalized people who want to attend public college or university.

This bill comes in the wake of the University of Iowa shutting down the Business Leaders in Christ club due to a perceived rights violation. The club was barring a gay student

Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

from a leadership position. According to the Iowa Public Radio, this situation made it to federal court and the court ruled in favor of Business Leaders in Christ.

It was ruled that their speech had been curtailed and after the ruling they were reinstated by the University of Iowa. So in essence, the justice system worked and the First Amendment of the United States Constitution did its job as it was supposed to.

Since this event at the U of I was the jumping-off point for getting this bill created, the legal outcome that it had it makes this bill seem, well, pointless. Iowa's state government has decided on a course of action that could have serious ramifications.

This quote from IPR from Rep. Mary Wolfe, D-Clinton explains the problem extremely well.

"We are codifying the right of student organizations to violate the Iowa

Civil Rights Act and to discriminate against their peers who do not share their exact values or beliefs by denying them the opportunity to hold leadership positions in the student organizations," said Wolfe.

We have the First Amendment and it more or less does it's incredibly important job; we don't need anything that will clash with freedom of speech. This new bill could lead to a non-inclusive atmosphere on publicly funded campuses. That is far from what a college campus should be like.

Mount Mercy is diverse and inclusive and our freedom of speech doesn't need any help. The protections we have in place for free speech already do the job that they need to do. Trying to change anything on the state level is just opening a can of worms that may be hard to shut, and could cause pain to marginalized students.

SGA Inspires Changes on Mount Mercy's Campus

After you, the students, voiced your opinions on what should be improved around campus, SGA has made newer improvement plans.

Mount Mercy University has always been known to have limited parking in front of the library and Regina Hall, and we heard the complaints from students and have addressed it accordingly. The SGA team has placed an order with Facilities and Public Safety to turn Admission parking into 30-minute parking after 5 p.m. every night.

Renovation plans are also in progress for the Regina basement and a commuter lounge. The plans for the Regina basement will entail a new kitchen area and new carpet with reupholstered furniture. The commuter lounge will be placed in an unoccupied room on campus with a

SGA Notes



Veronica Jons
SGA PR Director

microwave and comfy lounging with desks.

Something to look forward to for the end of the year is the Mustang Leadership Awards which will be held on April 28, 2019 at 3 p.m. If students know anyone that should be nominated for a leadership award, they can fill out the email that was sent from Director of Campus Events and Student Engagement, Tiffany Leschke.

On a similar note, Homecoming preparations are underway for the next school year. With the Homecoming itinerary almost completed and Mount Mercy Homecoming merchandise being ordered, this next year will be filled with fun and games!

If anyone would still like to give opinions or suggestions for homecoming plans next year, contact the Homecoming Director, Veronica Jons by email at vjons0864@mtmercy.edu to join the homecoming committee.

Look out for all the new changes and events that will be happening on campus at Mount Mercy University!

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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.

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Devil May Cry 5 Delivers the Action

When I'm about to play what is actually the sixth Devil May Cry, if you count the spinoff in 2013, I expect a certain level of refinement. And I mean that in every possible way.

I also expect chances to be taken, because it is Capcom we're dealing with after all. They've had five games of whittling away the good and bad with lots of risks taken, many of which have paid off. And this game turns out to be exactly what I expected.

In a game where style is everything, presentation becomes incredibly important. The graphics are very stunning, and the visual style is encapsulating.

Review
Derek Hamilton
Staff Writer

It has been 11 years since the last game in the series, so I remembered almost nothing about the plot. Thankfully, there is a "History of DMC" movie you can watch from the main menu.

You play as three different characters in Devil May Cry 5. At first I was a bit averse to this because playing as two characters in the fourth installment barely worked. I thought they took a minor success and tried to push it further like a desperate gambler down to his last few chips trying to bluff a pair of deuces.

All three characters are at least similar enough that switching when the game forces you to isn't anything too stymieing. Seemingly Capcom's entire risk investment is in the new character, V. The first

thing I noticed about V is he walks with a cane, which didn't strike me as a particularly high-action star feature to have, but I was willing to let Capcom prove me wrong.

V summons minions to fight for him, and you control these minions from a distance. The problem is always getting the minions to do what you want them to. V is almost impossible to truly master.

Is Devil May Cry 5 worth \$60 for the standard edition? Maybe, if you are into brawlers of the genre, it is worth checking out. The mechanics are solid with lots of advanced difficulties to challenge yourself after beating the game. But at just about 15-20 hours, it might be worth waiting.

Hand of God Aids Those Facing Spiritual War

Fifteen car accidents, one of them involving a car split in half after being t-boned; another person hit by a car while riding their bike, resulting in their helmet being completely destroyed; another involving a deer jumping backwards into the road, taking out the car and leading to a near-death accident. Every single person walked away unhurt.

All of this happened behind the scenes of the making of the new pro-life movie, "Unplanned." These events happened to either the actors, producers, or even family members of the crew. Some might find it a little strange that all these crazy accidents happened and not one person was injured. However, if you are familiar with spiritual warfare, it might not be as crazy as it appears.

Spiritual warfare is real. For

Faith on the Hill



Kasey Kaimann
Columnist

those who don't know, it's basically when God is doing something good and the devil likes to try to mess with things to stop the good from happening. But in the end, God, of course, always wins.

I came across the spiritual warfare behind the movie "Unplanned" and it reminded me of the spiritual warfare from "The Passion of the Christ" movie starring Jim Caviezel.

While filming the final act of "The Passion of the Christ," Jim Caviezel, portraying Jesus, felt an evil presence come over him as he was carrying the cross up the hill. Once he was hanging on the cross, his body turned blue from pneumonia and he had breathing problems. And then before the cast knew it, a lightning bolt came down and struck him, illuminating his whole body for the cast to witness.

Caviezel confesses he saw himself from outside of his body for a moment. This is another example of spiritual warfare. This movie impacted many and continues to today. My family still watches this movie every Lent to meditate on

what Jesus experienced to save us.

This movie has changed lives, and the devil feared it doing so. For those wondering, Caviezel recovered from the lightning bolt and is healthy.

I don't know about you, but to me, it definitely looks like God had His hand on those two movies. The fact that 15 people were in serious car accidents and every single one of them were unhurt in the making of "Unplanned" shows God's presence in this film.

Plus, it just so happened that in another Christian film Caviezel was struck by lightning the very moment he portrayed Christ's greatest act for us. These point to a greater power working in these movies.

To think the devil was trying to mess with the making of "Unplanned" only leads me to think that this movie will impact America in great ways, just as the "The Passion of the Christ" did. After seeing "Unplanned," I can say that this movie left a mark on me as I'm sure it will to you, no matter your views on the subject.

Heard on The Hill

By Alexa Zamora

What people are saying on topics of interest.

Spring Break is only a memory, and classes are heating up, so the Times asked: "With the weeks in the semester dwindling down, how do you keep yourself motivated?"



Andrea Ertz, junior, accounting, finance and business management major.

"I would say setting goals for things to stay on track is what keeps me motivated."



James Lindstrom, senior, psychology major and biology minor.

"The thing that keeps me motivated is graduation. I want to finish on a good note here at Mount Mercy."



Maximilian Rieger, senior, psychology, business management and human resource management major.

"As the semester winds down, the thing that keeps me motivated is my perfectionism, knowing that if I do well in my classes my parents will be proud of me, as well as knowing that I can rest throughout the summer."



Vanessa Cortes, junior, business marketing major and Spanish and graphic design minor.

"Knowing that I am one step closer to meeting my goal. Graduating college is what keeps me motivated."



Klayre Michel, freshman, nursing major and psychology minor.

"What keeps me motivated is of course iced coffee and keeping my eye on the prize! I remind myself of my overall end goal of wanting to become a nurse, which helps me stay in study-mode as well as motivated."

Procrastinating? Ryan Gosling, Blackmail May be the Solution

Hello ladies and gentlemen; welcome back to the Truth of Youthe, an advice column for Mount Mercy students. This edition's question comes to us from Anxious in Andreas, who writes, "I procrastinated on a paper I've known about all semester. Now I have 12 pages due in one week! Any advice for topics/paper writing?"

Chuck – Anxious, I live in that dungeon that you've gotten yourself into. I'm the little troll that greets you as you enter and hands out a pamphlet all about the various activities you could do while in the Procrastination Station.

How do you beat this feeling you're having? Easy! You space out some time in your schedule over a couple days and slowly bring yourself to write the paper. Pace yourself. You don't want to write all 12 pages in one night; that would overload you completely.

Make sure you take various breaks where you go play Apex Legends and/or be on your phone for a little bit. Go message that special person in your life and tell them how you're doing.

Watch a movie that has special place in your heart, *The Notebook*. Watch as Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams fall in love and kiss in the rain. Watch and dream about holding Ryan's face. You want Ryan to make you feel like you're the only girl in the world for him. No one could treat you better than Ryan Gosling ever could!

Then when the ending comes, prepare for the saddest part of your existence and make sure to grab your tissues. Wrap yourself in a blanket burrito and watch as this elderly couple prove that love does exist, and now you're crying uncontrollably and wishing that Ryan was there to hold you.

If he was there to hold you everything would be alright. He'd be there to pet your hair and kiss your forehead. To tell you that everything is going to work out.

...What was I supposed to be writing

The Truth of Youthe



Chuck Uthe and Matt Trueblood

Sages and Staff Writers

about? Oh yeah, procrastination. I'm sorry, I was just emotional over Ryan Gosling again, wasn't I? Good luck, Anxious!

Trueblood – Another student falls prey to that villain, procrastination. My sympathies, Anxious, I've been there too.

Reject the idea that the approaching deadline will motivate you. It's easy to fall into that line of thought, but it's flawed as

you now know. The only person that can motivate you is yourself.

I find that I'm most motivated when my life is in danger. In fact, there is a phone app that will send an embarrassing text to your contacts if you are not productive. You simply set a time and a goal, and if you don't scan in enough pages when the timer ends, your grandmother is going to receive a picture of you from the last Vegas Night. Yeah, THAT picture.

Being motivated is only half the battle. In order to write a good paper, you'll need to get a good idea. It would be great if you could come up with one on your own, but you may not have time for that.

Luckily for you, there is a solution. In the art world, students are encouraged to observe the works of other artists. Some people refer to this as plagiarism, but it's more like borrowing without crediting.

I know what you're thinking, but it's fine. All the masters have done it. Even Pablo Picasso borrowed the idea when he said, "good artists copy, great artists steal." Find some examples of similar papers and you'll have a first draft ready in no time!

But if you get the app, do keep your eye on the clock. You'd hate to have your coworkers find that Sonic the Hedgehog fanfiction in their email come morning.

If you have an issue, quandary, or problem about anything at all, we can help. Send your questions to us at truthofyouthe@gmail.com or @ChuckUthe on Twitter. You have questions, we have advice, let us help you! And, as always, remember a splash in the puddle will bring mom no trouble, but the crack in the sidewalk will kill her.

Historian, Former Sperm Donor Contacted by Biological Child

By Courtney Hoffman
News Editor

Michael Luick-Thrams was a college student in the 80s, when he became a sperm donor.

Two months ago, something unexpected happened—a stranger contacted him, asking if he was her father.

Luick-Thrams' March 28 lecture, *Needles and Haystacks: Finding Family "Love" in a Digital Age* highlighted some recent life changes and the resulting questions about the roles and responsibilities of genetic donors.

"Eight weeks ago tomorrow I got an email," he said, and that's where his whirlwind story began.

The woman who contacted him, Danelle, had taken a 23andMe DNA test to learn more about her ancestry and to look for siblings.

Though she found none in her search, she was able to use the genetic information to trace family trees. She narrowed down candidates for her biological father to one of five cousins, including Luick-Thrams.

"So she sent this email, and she said more or less 'I don't know what you'll do with this, but I just want you to know that I exist and I think I'm your daughter,'" Luick-Thrams said.

"At first there was shock. Confusion. It felt like the world was falling out under my feet."

Luick-Thrams also came out as a gay man in his



Courtney Hoffman/ Times

Guest lecturer Michael Luick-Thrams shares his story as a sperm donor who was contacted by one of his biological children in Betty Cherry on March 28.

youth and struggles to find out how and where to fit this new family into the life and identity he's built.

"I had invested all this energy in this gay identity," he said. "And it wasn't a conscious thing, it was just a natural role."

"So I invested all of this energy and some woman comes and says 'I'm your daughter,' where do I fit her in my worldview? Where does she fit in?"

Despite all of these concerns, he shocked Danelle by replying back to the email, and so their connection began. DNA test results found that they were an extremely close match, and Luick-Thrams marveled at their "quite cosmic and quite unexpected" connection, along with their many similarities.

Throughout this whole ordeal, he says he's discovered three questions that he's been contemplating: who should live, how should people live, and who gets to decide?

One issue is that some donors don't want to be found or contacted. Some bring lawyers into the equation to formally cut off contact when offspring try to contact them.

But is this contact neces-

sary in some cases? Though the application process for these programs is different now, Luick-Thrams said he wasn't required to share his medical history before joining the program. This leaves offspring without the information they need to receive proper medical care.

Such lack of regulation would contribute to the loss of Danelle's 3-year-old son, who passed away from leukemia before she stumbled across any information about her father.

Another question he posed was about the extent to which donors should be held responsible as parents. How far do you take it, he wonders, when that child wouldn't be in the world without him?

Luick-Thrams doesn't claim to know the answers to these questions.

Adjusting as best he can and open to the various unexpected outcomes of life, he knows only that the future is uncertain.

"I knew in the 80s that I was casting my DNA throughout and making human lives possible and I had no control."

"I don't know what's coming," he said. "It's a challenge."

New Track Recruits from California Try out Midwest Winter

By Mahlon Steepleton
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy track team added two new recruits during the month of January. The athletes, who came all the way from California, are juniors Luke Nickelson and Jasper Severn.

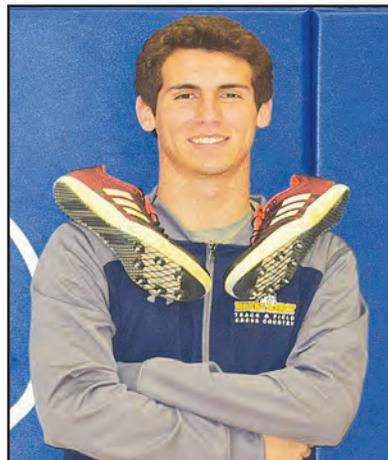
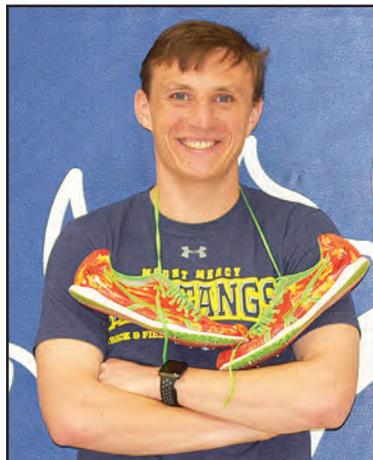
The athletes drove a total of 30 plus hours in separate cars in the cold winter conditions and both came to Iowa when it was a warm negative 15 degrees outside.

Severn had to give Nickelson a winter coat because he didn't bring one with him. Neither athlete had been to Iowa before they came to Mount Mercy University.

Severn transferred from the College of the Redwoods in Eureka, Calif. He is traditionally a long distance runner but his main focus is the Steeplechase. Severn has big goals on this upcoming outdoor track season.

"I want to break Coach Jimison's Steeplechase record and in doing so, go on and break the school record as well," Severn said.

Severn has adjusted to the new environment with the help of his Mount Mercy track teammates. "It's a very inclusive team and they welcomed me in," he said. "They also helped me out with getting use to training in some of the craziest weather I've ever



Veronica Jons/ Times

Jasper Severn (left) and Luke Nickelson (right) pose for a picture. Both athletes are from California and are recent additions to the Mount Mercy track and field team. Both have big goals for the season.

seen."

Both athletes are going through the same adjustment period as transfers. Iowa is a very different environment from California.

"It's been helpful adjusting to the new NAIA Conference. Especially with both of us coming from the competitive CCCAA," Severn said.

Assistant Track Coach Tad Hulst is excited to have Severn on the team.

"Jasper has been a great addition to our team," Hulst said. "He's eager to work to find out just how good he can be. He also

brings another level of enthusiasm to the team."

Severn is also happy to have Nickelson as a teammate. "He's a talented athlete and wants to jump high," Severn said.

Nickelson has goals in mind as well. "I want to break all the school records in high, long, and triple jump. I also want to qualify for nationals in two or more events," Nickelson said.

He also mentioned his excitement at having a teammate who he can relate to that understands the big changes he's experiencing.

"We really link well because

we're both from California and both have the determination to do big things on the track in Iowa," he said.

Nickelson also expressed gratitude toward the Mount Mercy staff that have been helpful and helped to make the transition easier.

"The whole coaching staff wants the best out of you, and are very caring and genuine individuals. Coach Stephens has really helped me with transition here," Nickelson said.

Head Track Sprinters Coach Derek Stephens is excited to have Nickelson be a part of the Mount Mercy track and field family.

"This season has been interesting for Luke. He is a transfer from Cuesta Community College in San Luis Obispo, California, so the Midwest weather has been an adjustment for him. Luke has big dreams and aspirations and I think our meets at Rhodes College and Augustana College unlocked his confidence," he said.

"It also gave him some of his swagger back. Luke has been a great addition to our program! He's already etched his name in our history books. I can't wait to see what he does on the National Stage," Stephens continued.

Nickelson says he wants to

help out the team in any possible way he can.

"If I do the best to my ability as an athlete I can help us score points and try and get our team to place Top 3 at conference."

He is also still adjusting to Iowa. "It's hard coming into halfway through the track season because you can't fully build relationships quickly with others but it's a rewarding experience to meet new people and to have new teammates. Plus California is way warmer than Iowa," Nickelson said.

The teammates and coaches have made the transition easier for Nickelson. "I like the standards that Coach Stephens has set for me as a track athlete, and it's nice to have a good support system with the teammates and coaches I have befriended so far. I like the high goals they have set for themselves on and off the track," Nickelson said.

His impressions of Iowa are all good so far. "Besides the cold weather, I have really enjoyed my time here. The Midwest has a lot of nice and friendly people that want to help you succeed in life."

You can catch the Mustangs this weekend April 5-6 at the Wartburg Outdoor Select Meet in Waverly, Iowa.

Mustangs Spilt Conference Doubleheader with William Penn

By Christian Moseley
Staff Writer

The Mount Mercy Mustangs hosted a conference double header against the William Penn Statesmen on March 20.

The Mustangs came into the day with a conference record of 6-7. Things started off hot for the home team as they jumped to an early lead in the first inning when junior pitcher Jake Faur hit a two-run home run to left field. The Mustangs went on to have a field day at the plate in game one, scoring in all but two of the seven innings.

Senior third basemen Owen Oreskovich,

senior first basemen Tito Berdecia and junior outfielder Manny Olutunde all had multi-hit game in the opener.

William Penn came into the day with a conference record of 2-1. Their offense was led by senior outfielder Blaze Speas who had 3 hits in 4 at bats in game one, including a solo home run.

The Mustangs went on to win 11-2. The winning pitcher was Jake Faur and taking the loss in game one was junior pitcher Chase Stratton.

"It was great to see the guys come out and swing it off a great pitcher like we did today," Faur said after the game. "I think

this will be a real confidence-booster as we go on this season."

Game two of the double header did not go as planned for the home team. The Statesmen scored first to start the game in the top of the first inning when senior infielder tripled to right field and the next batter, Speas, hit a sacrifice fly to right field to put them up 1-0.

The Mustangs were able to tie the game in the bottom of the second inning when senior infielder Parker Johnson drove in Oreskovich on a ground out to the third basemen. The inning was led off with a single by Oreskovich followed by a double

down the left line by senior catcher Corbin Day.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, senior center fielder Evan Jackson grounded out to first base and later went on to get ejected due to confrontation with opposing pitcher Lionel Colon, who was also ejected from the game. The struggling offense of the Mustangs continued as the Statesmen bullpen was able to keep the final score to 2-1.

The Mustangs will go to William Penn on Wednesday, April 3 to finish the three-game series.

English Major Dreams of Soccer

By **Lincoln Currie**
Staff Writer

Orlando Clark dreams of playing professional soccer, a sport that has created many other opportunities for him.

"Soccer gave me the chance to get a degree and at the same time I am close enough to go pro in soccer," Clark said.

Clark's hope is to get a contract to play soccer in the United States, but he also wants to return to his home country, Jamaica, to use his English skills to help the Jamaican people.

"I want to be an English professor in my home coun-

try," Clark said. "I want to help my country and the best way to help a people is to educate them."

Clark also hopes to write while teaching as a professor.

"My writing style is very odd, as I try to push the boundaries of literature," Clark said. "I love to mix things."

Clark said that in addition to his unconventional style, his perspective is also distinctive because growing up in two different worlds, America and Jamaica, gives him the ability to deal with people better.

That unconventional style and unique perspective can cre-

ate new results.

"I can write a poem in English and then can switch stanzas of that same poem and write in my Jamaican dialect, and just like that I have two poems," Clark said.

Clark added that he does not intend on sticking to one literary genre.

"I don't have a set genre that I encapsulate myself in," Clark said.

Clark considers John Donne, George Herbert, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Jack Kerouac to be some of the most important influences of his writing and morality.

Clark likes those writers because they write about freedom, love, and nature.

SNAPSHOT

Meet the people
on The Hill

Orlando Clark



Times file photo

Orlando Clark performs at the Black Student Union talent show Feb. 17.

Campus Ministry Peer Workshop Gives Ideas for Well Being

By **Matt Helmkamp**
Staff Writer

With the work and stress students face when midterms are around, we sometimes forget about our own well-being.

Noelle Reese, junior, is one of the residential peer ministers and is majoring in sports management and accounting and minoring in religious studies. Erin Broich, director of ministry and service, and Reese discussed and brought awareness to how we should take care of ourselves and help prevent stress on March 13 in the Lundy aerobic room.

"As college students, we often times forget about self-care and ourselves and started putting others and priorities in front of taking care for ourselves," Reese said.

Reese became motivated in bringing awareness

to self-care after seeing previous posters on the topic. When Reese asked Broich whether she should go along with it, Broich encouraged her to go on with the idea of bringing awareness.

Keeping adequate sleep, saying no, and taking time for reflection were the highlights of the discussion.

Reese and Broich mentioned the importance of the quality of sleep we get is more weighed on than the amount.

"It is important to take care of yourself and even in college, when you are too busy, people sacrifice sleep and sleep is important," said Broich. "Even if you think we're okay without them, you're really not and they affect your daily performance, your academics."

Reese described the art of saying "no" isn't a selfish one, it's a matter of put-

ting ourselves first when we need to; if we were to say yes to everything, we would have no time to ourselves and would be exhausted.

"You can still be a kind person even when you are saying no," Reese said.

Reese and Broich mentioned the importance of having the time to reflect and relax. They mention that meditation and other relaxation techniques help alleviate stress and brings a more positive feeling. Reese mentioned these acts can be done during our free time when we feel like we need to relax.

Emily Tigges, a freshman majoring in biology and music, and Haley Kirchmann, a freshman majoring in elementary education, both got something out of the self-care discussion event.

Tigges mentioned favor-

iting the different perspectives and how we should treat ourselves.

"You can't really walk away from yourself, but you can walk away from others, and that is something I really never had thought of before," Tigges said.

Kirchmann favored the meditation portion of the night and found it relaxing and alleviated stress.

"I feel like we forget to take time to self-reflect and meditate about things," Kirchmann said.

Broich made the point that self-care is something that we define for ourselves.

"Self-care can be in many forms, there are things like if you are artistic you can use art as a form, or if you have faith of traditions that you follow, that can be self-care," Broich said.

MMU Dance Marathon to Include Families, Fun

By **Madelyn Orton**
Managing Editor

For the second year, Mount Mercy will host its own Dance Marathon Friday, April 12 from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. to raise money for children and families affected by pediatric illness.

"The Dance Marathon movement is about fighting for the next generation of kiddos and making sure that they get their time to be a kid," said Taylor Wright, junior psychology and executive co-director of the MMU Dance Marathon.

Fundraisers throughout the year—such as doughnut sales, pie-ing faculty and staff—raised

money for the event.

According to Wright, Mount Mercy Dance Marathon raised over \$22,000 last year, and its goal this year is \$30,000.

"There will be food, dancing, games, and so many miracles" said Wright.

At the event, dancers can meet 10 miracle families. Students who are interested can sign up by emailing mmudancemarathon@mtmercy.edu.

"We support the families and kiddos through dancing, playing games, eating food, and celebrating the incredible miracles that we will make happen," said Wright.