



## Mount Mercy Times

A student publication

Issue 5, Dec. 8, 2022

[mmutimes.org](http://mmutimes.org)

### Heads Up

**Dec. 9: Sledding  
on the Hill,  
Noon-5 p.m.**

STANG and M2AP Board are teaming up to provide sleds for sledding on the Hill.

**Dec. 10: Market on  
the Mount, 9 a.m.**

Get your Christmas shopping done right here on campus inside Hennessey Recreation Center! Over 70 vendors will be represented at the annual Market on the Mount, hosted by Enactus.

**Dec. 11: MMU  
Holiday Concert,  
2:30 p.m.**

The university choir and band will perform seasonal music in the Prairie High School Auditorium.

**Dec. 13: Advent  
Reflection, 1 p.m.**

Campus Ministry is holding an Advent reflection open to faculty, staff and students in Donnelly 301.

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# Christmas on the Hill



Tree and cookie decorating, a visit from Santa Claus, a live nativity scene, and a petting area of animals on the Rohde Family Plaza were featured Dec. 2 in a "Christmas on the Hill" sponsored by Student Services. The event included students, staff, faculty, alumni and their families. (Times photos by Annie Barkalow)

## Teen arrested in shooting incident

### Campus enacts security steps after intruder enters dorm

By Annie Barkalow  
Editor-in-Chief

A 16-year-old teenager was arrested Nov. 10 in connection with the Nov. 3 shooting incident at Elmhurst Drive and Hazel Drive Northeast that wounded Mount Mercy student Matt Hellige, who sustained a non-life-threatening gunshot wound to his right forearm, according to Cedar Rapids Police.

The arrest came a day after an intruder startled students in Andreas. The sequence of events has led to security changes on campus.

According to a press release by Cedar Rapids Police, Natorian Smith, of Cedar Rapids, faces charges of intimidation with a dangerous weapon, willful injury resulting in bodily injury, going armed with intent, carrying weapons on school grounds, use of a dangerous weapon in the commission of a crime, reckless use of a firearm, possession of dangerous and loaded firearms by minors and persons ineligible to carry dangerous weapons.

Police said that Smith was already in custody at

the Linn County Juvenile Detention Center stemming from a probation violation tied to the Nov. 3 incident.

Meanwhile, the MMU community was shaken when an apparently armed intruder gained access to the Andreas dorm.

At approximately 4:20 a.m. on Nov. 9, the Cedar Rapids Police and Mount Mercy Public Safety were notified of a possibly armed individual inside Andreas House.

The person entered through a side door that was propped open but did not gain entrance to any of the suites. While video footage does not show a weapon, students reported seeing a gun through their peephole. The CRPD has not made an arrest in the incident yet.

In response, the university has pledged to improve communication with parents of students in emergency situations. Campus patrols will be increased, shuttles will be available, and 24/7 campus security will continue. Monday, Nov. 14, the campus began enforcing a closed door policy in which students and staff

will need to use their ID to enter campus buildings.

Visitors can call the info desk or public safety to be escorted inside. The university also held an open forum Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. in the Chapel to address campus concerns (see images, page 2).

### Related Content

This story summarizes two articles posted on the MMU Times web site, [mmutimes.org](http://mmutimes.org): **Arrest made in Nov. 3 shooting of MMU student; and Early morning Andreas intruder spooks campus.**

Images of a campus forum held Nov. 9 are on page 2.

# Art aftermath

## MMU drafts expression policy in wake of spring controversy

By Annie Barkalow  
Editor-in-Chief

A committee of students, faculty and staff has been formed to help draft an expression policy in wake of controversy surrounding art exhibits by students.

The conflict began when art students complained that their art-

work was removed unfairly and dubbed "controversial," with the situation coming to a head last year with the cover art on MMU's literary magazine

The Paha Review, which featured the Virgin Mary with a rainbow-colored habit that said, "love is not a sin." Faced with encouragement from their art professors but discouragement from the university, art students asked for clarity on what they could and could not display on campus.

"Last year, we did not have a policy when it was needed to help us make decisions and communicate those decisions.

### Related Content

The Mercy Times' opinion is that the MMU committee should write a policy that promotes robust free expression on campus: Staff Editorial, page 4.

◆ Faculty, staff, students  
continued on page 3





## Security forum

(Above) Joe Cerruto, director of Mount Mercy Public Safety, speaks at a Nov. 9 forum in the Chapel of Mercy, held after a shooting injured a student and an intruder entered Andreas House. At the forum, students and others posed questions to officials, President Todd Olson (right), VP of Student Success, Nate Klein (left), and a Cedar Rapids police officer. (Times photos by Joselyn Hildebrand and Delcie Sanache)



## Court considers ending affirmative action

By Delcie Sanache  
Sports Editor

Decades of fighting for racial equality and working to end systemic racism may be discarded by Supreme Court justices.

Recently, six justices on the Supreme Court have revealed their concerns about the use of affirmative action in universities. Affirmative action includes policies within an organization that strive to include underrepresented groups based on their gender, race, sexuality, creed, or nationality. In universities, the goal is to tackle racial discrimination during admission by looking at an applicant's background such as race and socioeconomic class along with their test scores, grades, and extracurricular activities. This gives minorities and low-income students the opportunity to gain a spot at their preferred college, and it helps create a diverse community

and an inclusive environment on campuses.

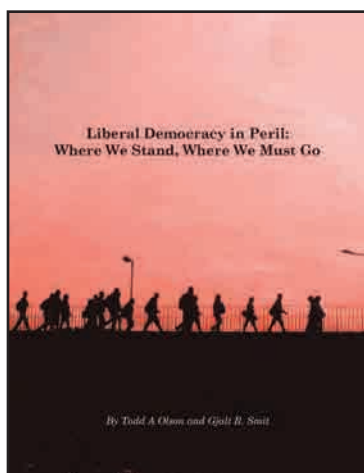
Removing this policy from the college admission process means it would be unconstitutional for universities in the U.S. to take a student's race into consideration when reviewing their application. Students of color are already more underrepresented in some universities today than a few decades ago despite college enrollment rates having risen in the past fifty years.

This could result in a significant decrease in the amount of students of color being admitted into certain universities. It will make it more difficult for minorities to be represented in professional areas and leadership positions during a time where diversity and support for minority owned businesses is being pushed for more frequently than ever. The Supreme Court will most likely not rule on this until June of 2023.

Reflection by Morgan Ingwersen, Assistant Editor



## Thanks to president for opportunity to work on his book



The cover of President Olson's and Dr. Smit's new book, "Liberal Democracy in Peril: Where We Stand, Where We Must Go." (Book cover created by Morgan Ingwersen)

Earlier this semester, I had the incredible opportunity to be able to edit a book, "Liberal Democracy in Peril: Where We Stand, Where We Must Go" by Mount Mercy's president, Dr. Todd Olson, and one of his colleagues in Switzerland, Dr. Gijl Smit.

When people think of editing books, they are not necessarily thinking about an academically oriented book with its main topic regarding liberal democracy. I cannot even tell you how many times I was asked what liberal democracy is, or if this book was boring to read and reread for editing purposes.

I started getting various documents via email from Dr. Olson before school was in session.

These were different chapters of the book—Dr. Olson's chapters, interview summaries, Dr. Smit's chapters, etc. I worked countless hours while at school, work and home to get everything done in a timely manner. Most of my time went into editing Dr. Smit's chapters. He is not very fluent in American English, so I found it difficult to understand what he was meaning, but with the help of Dr. Olson we were able to make everything flow correctly.

After editing the book, I was able to write a reflection on the knowledge that I gained from reading and editing the book. This reflection was over 1,000 words and almost three pages long. I never realized that I would have so much to say in

the world of politics.

No, I will not tell you all what I wrote about, so you will just have to buy the book and see for yourselves. It is available on Amazon via Kindle and paperback and will soon be available at Barnes and Noble.

After writing my reflection, I formatted the book for both Amazon Kindle and paperback. These were very different formats, so it took me a lot longer to get it correct for each form. The Barnes and Noble format is similar to the Amazon paperback format, so this was super easy to change just a few things.

Finally, I was able to create the cover for the book. This was a very tedious process. Formatting it for Amazon Kindle

was a breeze, but for paperback was incredibly hard. Everything has to be perfect, trim size (for border, the spine, etc.), the size of the text on the spine, the margins, etc. I kept running into issues where the picture would not fit, no matter what I kept adjusting, something was always just a little off.

I was so unbelievably grateful to have stumbled across this unusual internship opportunity. It helped me advance in my copyediting, graphic design and writing. I want to thank Dr. Olson and Dr. Smit for this incredible opportunity, and I am excited to see where my future is heading.

# Fall series on technology concludes

## Series director says attendance is rising

By Annie Barkalow  
Editor-in-Chief

Artificial intelligence, social media and World War II photography were popular subjects for this year's Fall Faculty Series, held Sept.-Nov. in the Flaherty Community Room.

The series featured an interdisciplinary mix from the departments of biology, chemistry, sociology, religion and philosophy, nursing and mathematics.

The topic this year, "Humans and Technology," featured six different lectures given by faculty and staff and was open to both the campus and community and focused on the relationship between people and technology, with topics ranging from the evolution of technology to World War II photography to current influences in artificial intelligence in

health care.

Joe Hendryx, director of the series, said although the series took a hit during the pandemic, attendance is getting better each year, with an average of about 20 people per session this year.

To date, most audience members have been faculty, staff and students, and Hendryx has been brainstorming ways to bring in more members of the community.

A popular lecture was "Scrolling is Unpaid Labor," given by assistant professor of religious studies Travis Lacy, and highlighted how exploitive social media is and how it narrows our view of the world, rather than broadens it.

"It was a powerful and fun insight into how social media affects us," said Hendryx, noting that Lacy took a "deep dive" into the subject.

Hendryx said there is a running list of topics for next year that faculty will vote on, saying that he tries to find topics that are both educational and engaging.

## Prof speaks on media scrolling

By Matthew Murphy  
Staff Writer

Stick around long enough in any public place, and you'll see people using their phones to fill in the gap of slow times—standing in line, waiting for the doctor, eating a meal—and sometimes using it just to hide behind an awkward moment. Chances are, there's more scrolling than actual reading going on.

"Scrolling is Unpaid Labor" was the topic of the sixth and final Fall Faculty Series, "Humans and Technology."

Assistant professor of religious studies, Travis Lacy, challenged the crowd gathered in the Flaherty Community Room on Nov. 15 to think critically about what they are accomplishing when scrolling, and whether or not the scrolling has purpose.

According to Lacy, individuals are using social media for many important

reasons but most choose not to use it as a resource, and there should be purpose when scrolling.

Advertisements are one example of using social media with a purpose.

"We see 4,000 to 10,000 advertisements each day which serve a purpose," said Lacy, "Advertisements are a huge money maker."

Advertisements play a huge role in today's society to make sure people show interest in their company or see what is going on in today's world, and these advertisements are used to grab our attention in order to achieve their objective.

During the lecture, Lacy also spoke about our relationship with time and not to waste it being unproductive or just killing time. "It is bad for us to take the narrower way out," he said.

A poem that was quoted was "Choose Something Like a Star." Choose something that will have a purpose in what you are looking for, and don't take the easy way out of activities when just scrolling through your social media feed.

## Faculty, staff, students meet

◆ *Art aftermath*  
continued from page 1

This caused confusion and frustration. The policy is intended to clarify our expectations and processes regarding expressions on campus," said Dr. Tim Laurent, provost, who previously convened the committee.

Laurent said that such a policy requires a balancing act.

"Some expression is not acceptable in our community. Other expression may be difficult but important for achieving our mission to educate. This balance between the rights of open expression and the responsibility to demonstrate respect for all can only be achieved if we base our policy on our university values," he said in an email.

The committee, which was formed at the beginning of the fall semester, has no set date yet for a completed policy proposal.

According to Laurent, the Campus Expressions Policy Committee meets weekly and includes individuals chosen to represent multiple perspectives on campus. The members include students Elsa Gustafson, Elyse Keefer, SGA president Tiara Munoz, and Jayde Watznauer-Chapman; staff, director of student engagement Amanda Ehlers, director of marketing Jamie Jones, director of residence life Janet Satern, and associate registrar for operations Taylor Wright; faculty, assistant professor of art Devlin Caldwell, assistant professor of marriage and family therapy Anthony Mielke, professor of chemistry Joe Nguyen, professor of English Joy Ochs; and convener, executive director of strategic initiatives and community engagement Tom Ksobiech.

Members of the committee declined to comment for the story, citing confidentiality.

## 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.

In addition, the Times maintains a student-run website for the dissemination of news in various forms, which can include 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 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 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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Staff Editorial: Opinion of the Times editors

# What MMU needs is a 'freedom of expression' policy

On the world stage down to local communities, the freedom to say and be who you are is a hot topic.

Elon Musk is finding that Ye can quickly convince him that "anything goes" can lead to chaos on Twitter. The past few years have brought freedom of speech to the forefront of national politics. You'd be hard pressed to find someone who has never heard the phrase "fake news," usually used about a news source or story that someone does not like.

And here we are at the Hill, grappling with some of the same issues. There is a committee of staff, faculty and students grappling with drafting an "expression" policy for Mount Mercy.

We don't envy the panel it's task. Balancing the competing needs of different constituencies won't be easy, but, on the other hand, we'd be happier if the committee were working on a "Freedom of Expression Policy" rather than an

"Expression Policy."

We would like MMU to state that creative communication on a Catholic university should be open and robust—"Catholic," after all, means "universal." MMU has long welcomed students of every

faith and no faith backgrounds. And while it's important we be mindful of and respectful to our Sisters of Mercy and Catholic identity, that identity includes openness

to a wide variety of viewpoints.

We also worry that an expression policy is being drafted without a clear opportunity for the wider community to engage in the discussion.

And a policy that specifies expression needs to be clear: Some may find some expressions offensive. Before employees

start tearing down art, however, some pause and some reflection whether a reasonable person would agree is in order. Part of the controversy last year wasn't just from the disputed artwork, it was from the cavalier way creative work was

removed from public spaces, such as the tunnels, that have traditionally been open to such expression.

It can be hard to understand why we, as a society, are

so adamant on pretending that the things we don't like are lies. While it is easiest to see people with opposite viewpoints doing this, the hard truth is that we all are at least a little guilty of this line of thinking.

So how can we break this vicious cycle? Perhaps the most important thing

we can do is to look within ourselves when we find something that we do not like and ask ourselves if there is a good reason why we don't like it. Is it genuinely problematic, or is it showing us a different viewpoint that isn't hurting anyone, but is making us uncomfortable?

When trying to sniff out reliable news sources, look for biases, both within the reporting and within yourself. Sometimes the truth is hard and can make us uncomfortable, and that's OK to admit. History is full of uncomfortable things, as is the present and most likely the future. But ignoring what makes us uncomfortable only allows it to continue unchecked.

If we are to make the world a better place, we must learn to confront our discomfort, not hide from it.

And at MMU, the Mercy way should include the grace to allow students to create the widest possible range of works in their authentic voices.

***We would like MMU to state that creative communication on a Catholic university campus should be open and robust.***

Opinion: "Faith on the Hill" by Vanessa Milliman, columnist

## May Advent and Christmas bring blessings to all Mustangs

It is that time of year again, with big shopping sales and malls playing Mariah Carey. Most eagerly await the white blanket of snow and icicles that reflect colorful lights. Decorated trees appear inside of homes.

Christmas is the time where Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. His birth marked the start of a new age. Even our calendars reflect this change as the years are counted from the time of Christ's birth. B.C. is the abbreviation for "before Christ," and A.D. is Latin for "anno Domini" or "in the year of our Lord."

The preparation for this big celebration starts way before the actual holiday. It is teasingly debated among Christians as to when it is time to start the preparations. Are Christmas movies and songs OK to start right after Halloween? Does the tree go up right after Thanksgiving? What about the other decorations? How soon is too soon?

All these questions show that big celebrations need the appropriate preparational time beforehand. The preparation gives witness to the importance of the event. That is why the Catholic Church designated four weeks of preparation for Christmas. The four weeks are called Advent. The word advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means "coming" or "arrival."

During this time, we are preparing our hearts

and homes for the coming of Christ. We are taking a deep look into our lives to see if we have room set aside for Jesus.

In the Nativity story, Jesus is born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. Each year, I have to ask myself if I am like that inn. My heart and my life are packed full of the things that I would like to have. Does my heart have room for Christ to enter?

If the answer is no, then I must remove the clutter and prepare a place for Him. If the answer is yes, then I look to the place that I have set aside. I check the time that I last cleaned the room by going to confession. I open the blinds to let the light of Christ inside. I dust the room and shake off my bad habits. The room is unlocked so that Christ can enter all the time. Frequent prayer holds the door open and is the invitation that He is waiting to receive.

These are some of the ways that I prepare to celebrate Christmas. Your family might have different traditions to help you prepare. The Church helps us by setting aside the four weeks of Advent. I encourage you to take these weeks as a time for prayer and reflection.

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas, Mustangs!



Opinion by Riley Rundquist, Staff Writer

## A needed winter break Enjoy the 'giving' time



Winter break is a long-awaited time of the year for many students.

We put in long hours of hard work during the school year and then usually get a few weeks in December and January to relax and recharge.

It is a time for students to recoup and get rest from the various demands that the rigorous semester entails. Academic stressors have huge effects on students of all ages spanning all the way from elementary school to graduate school. Without breaks like these, students will not be able to meet the academic demands that school requires of them to the best of their ability.

Throughout this well-deserved break, students are able to reconnect with their loved ones as many return to the places they call home.

Two of the highlights over break are celebrating Christmas and New Year's. Both holidays

create joyful times for many families in which everyone comes together and has their own traditions. It is also a time for people to come together in order to give back to people and communities that are in need.

One tradition that my family always participates in is the "Giving Tree." At my mom's work there is a Christmas tree with envelopes and each one is filled with a family requesting help from others to have a successful Christmas.

My family and I always pick an envelope and help out the family that's inside. Look around at MMU—there are giving trees on campus here, too. They are called angel tag trees.

It is times like these that I look forward to all semester because I get a chance to help someone in need during a season of giving. Winter break provides a mental cleanse that is exactly what is needed.

# Betrayal, heartbreak, resilience and pride: a Native story

Professor recounts national Native American history, population drop in reflection event

By Annie Barkalow  
Editor-in-Chief

The story of Native Americans is one of betrayal, heartbreak, resilience, defiance, pride and joy. For the Sioux, there is no direct translation for the word love—instead, they say “I will suffer for you.” And much suffering have they endured.

On Nov. 9, about 35 people gathered in the Flaherty Community Room to listen to visiting assistant professor of sociology, Sonja Lee Bock, talk about Native American history. Bock is a registered member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe in South Dakota. Titled “My Native Story: Past, Present, and Future,” the lecture gave a brief history of Natives in North America and a look at current Native issues, movements, and successes.

Beginning with the history of early contact, Bock put the number of Natives at 60 million in the United States prior to colonialism, compared with the current 6.79 million. Many Native populations were wiped out when European Puritans brought diseases with them. Later, chil-



dren were taken away to Indian residential schools to assimilate. 4,130 confirmed children died while at these schools from sickness, starvation, neglect and acts of cruelty. They were forced to give up their language, culture, clothing and cut their

hair.

“In our culture, our hair is very important to men and women. Cutting hair represents death,” said Bock.

Despite the brutal treatment they were shown by colonizers, Natives have histor-

Sonja Bock speaks at the Nov. 9 Reflection Event. Titled “My Native Story: Past, Present and Future,” Bock narrates Native history in her family. (Times photo by Annie Barkalow)

ically shown up for combat duty in every war before the U.S. was even a nation. In World War I, 13,000 Natives served without being given citizenship. So, why do they defend a colonized country?

“It’s still our land. We still have to protect our land,” said Bock.

Today, Natives are still fighting for their rights, whether it’s challenging broken treaties from the past, the water protectors at Standing Rock fighting to keep a pipeline off the land, or accounting for the 5,712 missing and murdered Indigenous women. There are bright spots, however.

Representation is increasing—currently, there are six Natives in Congress, and many are working to teach the younger generation their language of origin. Bock briefly went over her family history and emphasized that despite the hardships, being Native American is a joyful experience, and nothing has been able to dim the vibrancy of their culture.

## Visiting writer hosts memoir writing workshop

By Catherine Kratoska  
Opinion Editor

This fall’s Visiting Writer Series brought author Mary Helen Stefaniak to campus on Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. in the Flaherty Community room in Basile Hall.

Stefaniak, professor emerita of English and creative writing at Creighton University, started with a workshop on the “six-minute memoir,” based off of her most recent book, *The Six-Minute Memoir: Fifty-Five Short Essays on Life*. The essays in her book were written over the course of over 20 years for the magazine *Iowa Source*, which Stefaniak performed over Iowa Public Radio. Each essay would take about six minutes to perform on the radio.

At the end of the workshop Stefaniak provided prompts to help writers come up with their own six-minute essays and

attendees were encouraged to share their writing. This was followed by a reading by Stefaniak and a question-and-answer session about her books and her writing career.

At the 3:30 p.m. reading, Stefaniak read from both *Six-Minute Memoir* and her most recent novel, *The World of Pondsides*. Her novel takes place in an Iowa nursing home and follows the residents and staff as they try to solve the fatal drowning of middle-aged resident Robert Kallman. While Kallman was in the final stages of ALS, he created a virtual reality game for the other residents with the help of Foster Kresowick, a young man who works in the kitchen of the nursing home. After his drowning, the game disappears, which leads the intergenerational cast of characters to investigate their friend’s death, and what happened to their beloved game.

## Flashback: [Memories of the MMU Times](#)

Students have mixed reaction to possible war with Iraq

By Annie Barkalow  
Editor-in-Chief

**20 years ago: 2002**

**Students react to possible war with Iraq**

The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on Nov. 8 enforcing inspections for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in Iraq. The Mount Mercy community responded in several ways to being on the brink of war with Iraq. A junior majoring in English and secondary education, supports military action in Iraq.

A junior elementary education major, said “We need to address underlying reasons why Middle Eastern nations may not like us, or we’ll never end terrorism.”

**10 years ago: 2012**

**Men’s basketball extends streak to seven**

The men’s basketball team dominated Coe College on Saturday in a stellar performance.

The Mustangs extended their winning streak to seven games and moved their overall record to an impressive 8-1, includ-

ing a still-perfect mark of 4-0 at home with the 75-59 win.

Head coach Paul Gavin was impressed with the way his team played in front of a packed house at Hennessey Recreation Center.

“Anytime you can beat an intra-city rival like that, you know, it is a good feeling,” he said.

**Five years ago: 2017**

**Dance marathon starts tree sale tradition**

This year, the Mount Mercy Dance Marathon Team has started a festive tradition to help raise money for dance marathons by having student clubs, organizations, offices and athletic teams decorate Christmas trees.

The decorated trees are currently on display in the UC, where they can be purchased. Trees not purchased will be for sale at Market on the Mound on Saturday.

All proceeds will support Dance Marathon and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital.



Mustang basketball player, Ryan Bartley, makes a layup Nov. 15 as MMU pulls away from Cardinal Stritch, winning 97-22. (Times photo by Delcie Sanache)

## Bartley scores 25 as men pull away

By Delcie Sanache  
Sports Editor

On Nov. 15, the men's basketball team defeated the Cardinal Stritch Wolves in a non-conference game, 92-77. The two teams battled for the lead, staying separated by only a few points for almost the entire first half. This was until the Mustangs



earned 14 points in the last five minutes. This gave them the leverage they needed to hold their lead over the Wolves for the rest of the game, matching their 46 points in the second half.

Continuing to prove himself as a vital player for the Mustangs was Ryan Bartley, sophomore, who contributed 25 of the team's

final 92 points. Bartley added eight rebounds and four steals as well. Also putting points up on the board was Cole Hrubes, sophomore, with 13, Kenny Clay, senior, with 10, and Jakari Bradley, sophomore, and Cory Prather, sophomore, both with nine. Hrubes, Clay, and Rusmir Hamzic, sophomore, had six rebounds each.

## Beating Viterbo gives women third home win

By Becky Lenton  
Staff Writer

The women's varsity basketball team came out victorious against Viterbo, sealing their third straight win at home on Nov. 19.

The Mustangs secured an early lead in the game and held the V-Hawks to 7-0 until late in the first quarter. The V-Hawks made a comeback and were able to lead the Mustangs by one point by the end of the first quarter. The V-Hawks kept the game close from this point and only allowed 13 points for the Mustangs in the second quarter.

The basketball game remained close throughout the second half, until the Mustangs pulled a 12-point lead late in the third quarter. The game became close again late in the fourth quarter, leaving the Mustangs a three-point lead.

The Mustangs managed to pull off a 59-54 win with support from the home fans. After a strong start for the Mustangs, their narrow lead left supporters on the edge of their seats until Madison Dreckman, junior, sunk a free throw in the final seconds of the game, sealing the victory and wiping out any chance the visitors might have had.

The Mustangs shot 28.6 percent from the floor and 33.3 percent from the three-point line. Dreckman led the Mustangs with 18 points, 12 rebounds and four assists. Annika Headington, sophomore, contributed 11 points and 10 rebounds and Sammy Mia, senior, led with five assists.

## Sports in Short

### Mustang volleyball loses first game of postseason tournament

The women's volleyball team lost to MidAmerica Nazarene in their first game of the Heart of America Athletic Conference Volleyball Championship on Nov. 5. The final score was 0-3, (23-25, 17-25, 13-25), and the Mustangs finished out their season with 20 wins.

### Women's bowling wins tournament

On Nov. 13, the men's and women's bowling teams participated in the Leatherneck Classic in the Quad Cities. The women's

team won the tournament, and the men's team took tenth place.

### Cross country runners compete in national championship

Four of Mount Mercy's cross country team raced in the 2022 NAIA Cross Country Championships on Nov. 18 at the Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee, Fla. Sergio Lizarraga finished in 136th place, Ryan Clancy in 235th, Deanna Newhouse in 142nd, and J'Lyn Knutson in 258th.

### Women's basketball scores 108, 18 in OT to beat Grinnell

The Mustangs defeated the Grinnell College Pioneers on Nov. 22. After scoring 18 points in overtime, the final score was 102-88.

## Women's soccer team adapts to head coach change, injuries

By Delcie Sanache  
Sports Editor

The women's soccer team overcame many struggles and learned to adapt to change this season. Adapting to change will be a common theme going into the next season with the recent announcement that their head coach, Alen Kudumovic, will be leaving after this year. Kudumovic has been the women's soccer head coach since 2019.

"One of the things we struggled with this season was the number of injuries. But I think the team did well to work through these on a personal level and a team level. I think we did well to come together and step up into roles that may have been new to us. The way we adapted to the changes was key...this year's senior class has been through the process of welcoming in a new coach, but for the rest this is something new. So, we still have challenges to come," said Grace Byers, senior.

The team finished out the season with four

wins, 10 losses, and one tie. Three of their wins and nine of their losses were conference matches.

Byers reflected on the team's achievements this season.

"Overall, our season went better than it did last year. Our ultimate goal was to make it to play-offs this year, but that did not happen. Despite not achieving that goal, we won three conference games. We continue to make small steps of improvement, which makes me excited for the future of this program," she said.

Lauren Wagner, junior, saw vast improvement in her team as well.

"Overall, I think our season was reflective of the hard work and team effort we have built. We are moving in the right direction, and our results prove that," she said.

Despite the upcoming challenge the team is about to face, they continue to stay positive.

"We are excited to start a new journey of learning and growth," said Wagner.

## Who are the missing sisters?

By **Joselyn Hildebrand**  
Feature Editor

The Nov. 16 Hot Lunch Hot Topics hosted monthly by SGA in the J.E.D.I. room featured the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), titled “Who are the missing sisters?”

November is Native American Heritage Month. The lunch event focused on the impact of law enforcement, U.S. colonization, intergenerational trauma, and poor media coverage of cases.

“There are so many (cases) that we don’t even know of and can’t track, many don’t

ever come forward,” sophomore Houston Hamlett said.

Attendees were provided with an informational packet including statistics relevant to each issue. One of the most disturbing facts: Over 95% of cases involving MMIW are never covered by national or international media. Less than one-fifth of the cases covered by the media are talked about more than once, according to Urban Indian Health Institute.

Red Dress Day is one of the ways to bring awareness to the issue nationally. Recognized on May 5, it is the National Day of Awareness for MMIW. Communities are

encouraged to wear red to draw attention to the crimes committed against MMIW.

It has been nearly eight years since a Native woman went missing from freshman Delcie Sanache’s home settlement in Iowa, Meskwaki. She said her family always wears red on Red Dress Day.

Students, faculty, and staff brainstormed ideas about how to bring more awareness to this issue. Some of the ideas mentioned included an on-campus powwow, bringing Native American small local business to campus, and a walk near Red Dress Day.

## MMU Professor reflects on Iowa’s midterm election results

By **Delcie Sanache**  
Sports Editor

Iowa’s 2022 midterm election is over, and Mount Mercy’s assistant professor of English, Joe Hendryx, found himself disappointed with the results.

“The Iowa midterm results were not surprising to a lot of us, although the nationwide fizzling out of the highly anticipated ‘red wave’ was a little surprising. I think this speaks to the fact that the national popularity of progressive issues is obscured by both Democratic and Republican politicians and by the news media. The media needs to stop predicting outcomes and discussing electability and instead make a concerted effort to holistically represent what is at stake in these elections and to critically interrogate disinformation,” he said.

Kim Reynolds (R) beat out Deidre DeJear (D) for governor, Chuck Grassley (R) beat out Michael Franken (D) for senator, and the Republican party won all four House seats.

Hendryx recognized fault in the Democratic Party during this election.

“The Democratic Party needs

to give actual support to more progressive candidates who are running on policies that are popular with the majority of Americans—universal healthcare, student debt forgiveness, marijuana legalization, abortion access. The Democrats need to stop ‘reaching across the aisle’ to appeal to a party that has spent years claiming they are fundamentally illegitimate. As a party, the Democrats cling to the center even though this continues to fail,” he said.

He believes that moving forward, there are many key issues needing to be addressed both in Iowa and nationwide.

“Abortion rights: they have been supported by the majority of Americans for decades, and we are seeing this with the nationwide backlash against the overturning of Roe v. Wade. LGBTQ+ protection and empowerment: I remember how exciting it was in 2009 when Iowa was one of the first states to legalize same-sex marriage. I’m extremely disappointed that this momentum has not carried forward and instead we have seen a surge of bigoted rhetoric and harmful policies aimed at these historically marginalized identities,” he said.

## Students build nearly 200 critters at M2AP board event

By **Becky Lenton**  
Staff Writer

Build-a-Critter returned for another year, bringing students to the upper deck of Hennessy almost two hours before the event started on Nov. 10.

M2AP Board Social Media Executive, Haley Hartshorne said, “This is one of the biggest events on campus, with roughly 200 critters...it allows so many students the opportunity to get involved.”

Students joined the line at 5:40 p.m. despite the event starting at 8:00 p.m. This year’s critters ranged from axolotls, to koalas, to dragons, with a wide variety



Students stuffing their critters. (Times photo by Becky Lenton)

for the students to pick, but the favorite was the sea turtle.

M2AP Board will be hosting a variety of events before the end of the semester, including their Stress Buster series, helping students to unwind from the pressures of finals week.

## Mental Health Matters



MMU students participate in The Bandana Project’s Mental Health Matters 5K Run/Walk on Nov. 5. The 5K helped to raise awareness for mental health issues and end the stigma surrounding it. (Times photo by Elaina Sanders)

## Paha Review announces Jan. 3 deadline

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be published? Now’s your chance to find out!

MMU’s own literary and art magazine, The Paha Review, is now taking submissions for the 2023 issue. Submissions are open

to students of all majors. We accept personal essays, short stories, poems, and artwork.

Deadline for submission is the first day of J-term, Jan. 3. Submissions can be emailed to paha@mtmercy.edu. For questions, contact professor of

English Mary Vermillion at vermill@mtmercy.edu, art editor Grace Byers at gbyers9713@mtmercy.edu or editor Annie Barkalow at abarkalow0164@mtmercy.edu.





Jordan Smith, a sophomore originally from Philadelphia, says his photography helps him follow in the footsteps of his father. He shares the film images he produces on Instagram. (Times photos by Joselyn Hildebrand)

## Taking photos lets Mustang share his creative impulses

By Joselyn Hildebrand  
Feature Editor

Sophomore Jordan Smith's passion for photography has given him a chance to express himself and share his art and creativity with the world. With plans to enter the athletic training field as an exercise science major, he still follows his father's footsteps in photography. Smith is originally from Philadelphia but comes to Mount Mercy from Rockford, Illinois.

"My passion for photography is virtually in my blood. My dad has been a professional digital photographer for years and has made some great work, and I wanted to take after him but with my own twist," Smith said.

After experimenting with various types of cameras throughout his years, Smith didn't begin to take photography seriously until his freshman year of college. Another enticing factor for starting the hobby was a simple scroll through social media.

"I would see pictures that I would think were cool and wanted to recreate them with my own style," Smith said.

The simplicity behind film is his favorite part. With film, there is no editing or

post-production.

"You take a picture and it's gone in a fleeting moment... I love that you can make something so mundane and boring into a picture that can last forever and make people feel things," Smith said.

Smith's photography account on Instagram is his outlet to share his creativity with his community. It began growing more as he featured images from photoshoots with fellow Mount Mercy students.

"@jordysvisuals has been a hub for all my work to go and for everyone to see. I don't really post on there to get likes or notoriety... I hope my followers gain inspiration and just pure entertainment from my account. I also hope that they view it as an extension of me and an insight into my creative mind."

Smith started photography with the urge to act on his creativity. He has one message for anyone who might be looking for that creativity in their lives.

"I would like to let everyone know to act on any urge you have to create anything. Don't worry about failure, failure is just an opportunity to try something else and be good at that."

### SNAPSHOT

Meet the people  
on The Hill  
**Jordan Smith**

## Heard on the Hill

By Riley Rundquist  
Staff Writer

MMU's tunnels are full of interesting art. With winter now driving more students to use these underground passages, the Times asked:

**What artwork stands out to you in the tunnels and why?**

**Sam Funke**  
Business marketing

"I really enjoy walking past this picture because it reminds me of the saying water always finds its level, so whenever I am having a dreadful day it reminds me that no matter if I am having a sad day, there are better days ahead."

**Tyler Dahm**  
Junior, business management

"I enjoy this picture because baseball stands out when someone thinks of me because I have dedicated most of my life to the sport and do not know where I would be without it today."

**Ashlynn Geasland**  
Sophomore, nursing

"I really enjoy walking past this picture every day because it brings me back to being young and remember how there was no worry in the world when I was that young."

**Derek Einertson**  
Sophomore, sports management

"This picture really catches my eye because it reminds me of my cat back home that loves to explore the outdoors and how curious he is."

**Blake Harsiem**  
Exercise science

"I like this picture because to me it shows two different sides to someone. On one side is a dog and on the other side is a wolf and how you should not judge someone by their cover."

**Cody Schroeder**  
Sophomore, business management

"This picture always catches my eye for some reason and the more I investigate it, it shows how everything is scattered and all over the place and I feel like that is where I was when I had started school, not being fully prepared for everything that came with it."

