



WHAT'S NEW IN ATHLETICS?

FOOTBALL? LACROSSE?



Share your story

I am excited and honored to take on the role of managing editor for The Viewer this school year.

I hope The Viewer can take an honest look into the issues facing our campus. Our staff is willing to take the initiative to look into stories, and we pledge to report with accuracy and integrity. We work hard to fill each issue with timely and relevant information for the campus.

But it's not just about us. The paper is about you. We want you to join us in shaping the campus newspaper. Share your story ideas and opinions by contacting any of our staff or participating in the new discussion boards on our website. We publish two print issues a semester and bring you more breaking news online at lakeholmviewer.com. You will also find us on Twitter and Facebook.

We look forward to sharing your stories this school year.

Sincerely,
Maddie Cogan
Managing Editor

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A NEW STUDENT HUB

Post Office, Cougar Corner bookstore and Printing/Mailing all moving to the PSU next semester

By Maddie Cogan

Campus officials are planning a series of moves that will turn the PSU into a center for student activity by next semester.

The Cougar Corner bookstore, Printing and Mailing, and the Post Office will move from their respective locations into the PSU in the spring of 2018.

All three services will operate out of what is now the PSU game room. The game room is expected to stay in the building, most likely in one of the old gymnasiums. The popular 586 café will stay in its current location in the PSU.

Those involved with the move say it will be a positive for students.

“The location is close to student housing, which gives students good access” to all the services that will be offered at the PSU once the move is complete, said Gina Blanchard, manager of the Cougar Corner.

Students said it will take a while to get used to the idea of checking their mail at the PSU instead of making the usual stop at their Campus Center mailboxes at meal times.

But in the end, “I think students will end up liking it,” senior intercultural studies major Tim Tipton said. “It’s going to turn the PSU into a fun place to gather and play.”

From a practical standpoint, the relocation also gives the post office more space. Because of an increase in student mail the past few years, packages are now housed in two separate locations.

The change also allows the post office and printing and mailing to share a space, a logical move since the two areas work closely together and are under the same supervision.

The bookstore also will benefit, Blanchard said.

“Cougar Corner is ready for a facelift and the current PSU game room is the perfect setting for the campus store,” Blanchard said. “The game room offers a larger space, updated look and the campus store will be in close proximity to athletic events.”

The empty space left in the current bookstore building will allow Motherboard Helpdesk and Information Technology to set up in a combined area. Motherboard currently works out of the lower level of the library, while IT operates from the Cougar Corner basement.

“These changes provide efficient use of space and increase our ability to work together as a team by consolidating departments,” Blanchard said.

The University is still discussing what to do with the space left in the Campus Center building once the post office moves out.

The MVNU Facilities Services team will manage most of the remodeling and moving. The project is expected to be complete after spring break.

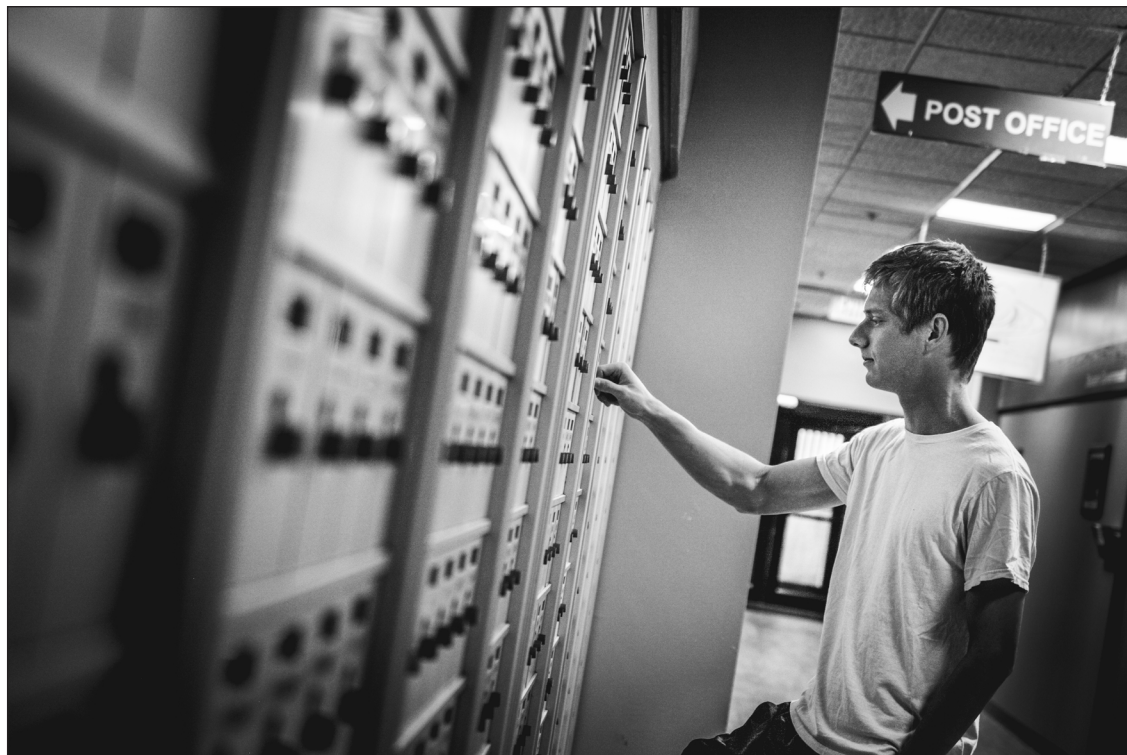


Photo by Becca Maddux

Students will be collecting mail from the PSU by the end of spring semester.



Photo by Maddie Cogan

Post Office Coordinator Roberta Simmons is excited about the move to the PSU.

Post office coordinator reflects on decades of service

Post Office Coordinator Roberta Simmons has been with MVNU since the beginning of the University in 1968.

Originally working as a secretary to the academic dean, in 1980 she was offered a job to start the Post Office in Hyson Campus Center.

Simmons said the original post office was right across from the current location.

“The boxes were front loading boxes down the hall on both sides,” Simmons said. “We would be putting mail in the boxes, and the students would be standing right behind us to take it out.”

Even though the mail boxes are “getting old and the combinations are a bit of a frustration,” the current location and equipment hold a lot of nostalgia.

Simmons said she expects the old mailboxes to be retired. She is expecting new boxes with electronic keypads when the post office makes the move in the spring.

Simmons will celebrate 50 years of association with MVNU next year and 45 years of full-time employment.

“I feel so honored to have worked at MVNU for all these years,” Simmons said. “God has been so good to me and to MVNU. We have had and still do have the best God-led leaders.”

A look at the NUMBERS

By Jordyn Davis

The beginning of the 2017-18 school year brings not only the excitement of a new semester, but the addition of 330 new freshmen and 26 transfer students to the MVNU campus.

After four consecutive years of enrollment growth, this year's numbers are down.

Still, overall enrollment remains solid, admissions officials said.

One highlight is the record 201 high school students taking classes at MVNU through the College Credit Plus program.

The total undergraduate enrollment this year is 1,376 students.

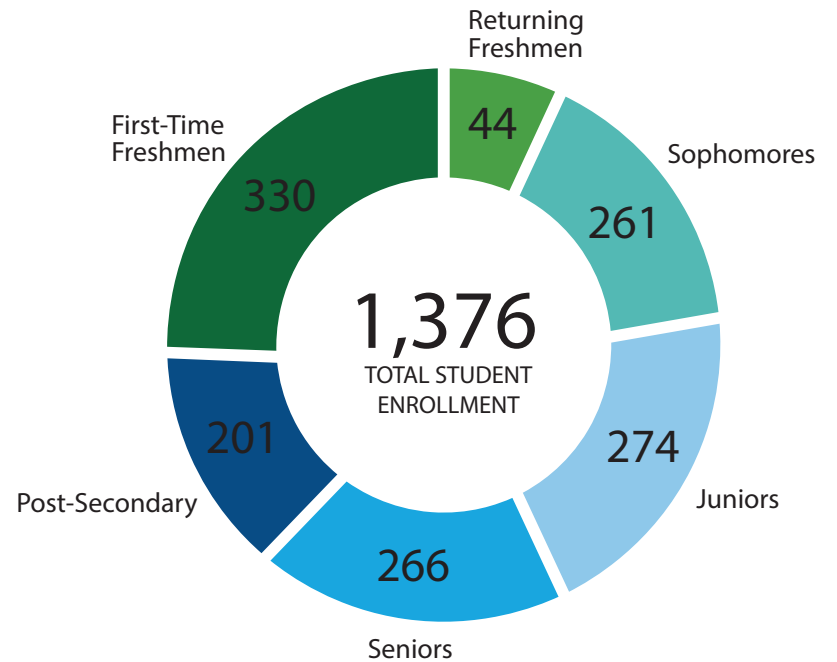
Female students again outnumber male students, making up 61 percent of this year's student body.

MVNU students this year come from 21 states, ranging from Maine to California, and 10 foreign countries.

MVNU boasts one of the greatest financial aid to overall cost ratios, which helps attract students, Admissions Director Tracy Waal said.

"We still provide some of the best scholarships around, but the competition has closed some this year," he said.

MVNU Enrollment for 2017-18



Graphic by Meghan Tulloss

Returning to MOTHER OAK

By Michaela Hughes

Overcrowding on campus has forced some sophomores to live this year in Oakwood Hall, MVNU's infamous home for all freshmen males.

Strong enrollment the past several years led to the arrangement that has 20 sophomores calling Oakwood "home" for a second year.

Oakwood Resident Director Kevin Peterson said limited space meant limited options for male housing.

"There are very few male beds open across campus. In Oakwood, we currently only have two empty beds," Peterson said.

In addition, female students outnumber males 3 to 2, making male housing options even more of a challenge.

When the apartments ran out of space, Peterson and Dean of Students Aaron Quinn decided the best decision was to house some of the sophomores in Oakwood.

"We are very limited to where we place males," Quinn said. "It's really just a matter of running out of room in the apartments."

Residence Life officials explained that students with the most credits were given priority for apartment housing. Those with the fewest credits ended up back in Oakwood.

While the sophomore students understand the reason for the dilemma, many are less than thrilled with the thought of another year in the freshman dorm.

"I think it's fine that they base it off credits," sophomore Jaime Rodriguez said, but "they should just have enough housing for everyone."

Meanwhile, the housing issues have MVNU officials discussing the possibility of expansion. Campus blueprints show Redwood with a second building and Cypress with a third building, Quinn said.

"We've actually talked about the possibility of adding on to Redwood and Cypress. Those were the original plans that they just never built," Quinn said.

Meanwhile, some students say they have come to appreciate the dorm atmosphere for a second year.

"In reality, it is what it is," sophomore Ashton Larson said.

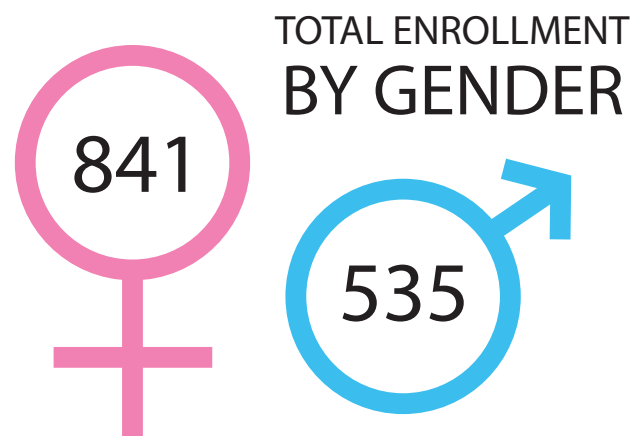
Now that he's used to the idea, "I actually don't mind it because that gives us sophomores a chance to connect with the new incoming freshmen," he said.

Peterson said the sophomores have added a new dimension to the Oakwood experience.

"They have been a positive influence in Oakwood. I can't tell you how much I appreciate their spirit and attitude," Peterson said.

Many of the sophomores "have gone above and beyond to help give back and to create the Oakwood Brotherhood in their second year here," he said.

Quinn also praised the sophomores for their willingness to adjust and adapt.



Graphic by Meghan Tulloss



Sophomore Elise Murray chooses the perfect apple at the apple-picking event Sunday at Legend Hills.

Photo by Danielle Zoellner

Stopping the SOPHOMORE SLUMP

By Maddie Cogan

In an effort to stop the sophomore slump, MVNU's Residence Life leaders have created an initiative to help sophomores transition into a new phase of college.

The new "Sophomore Experience" is designed to keep students engaged and prevent the disenchantment that sometimes comes after freshman year.

"The reason this whole program is taking place is because of the issue called the 'Sophomore Slump,' Maplewood and Elmwood Resident Director Annabelle Harray said. "The Sophomore Slump is a term to describe how sophomores can often feel disconnected from the rest of campus."

Students often get showered with attention in the form of social activities and learning and service opportunities during their freshman year. But the social scene and sense of belonging can be displaced when they become sophomores, Harray explained. ResLife hopes to fill the void with an intentional focus on sophomores.

"We want the sophomores to feel included and special, and we want them to feel at home at MVNU," Harray said.

The Sophomore Experience will feature social, educational and

spiritual events ranging from cookouts to apple picking to a new peer mentoring program.

The Peer Mentoring program, which offers chapel credit, is focused on having juniors and seniors mentor sophomores since they are no longer involved in small groups.

Through this, juniors and seniors will be able to invest in the lives of sophomores while bridging the gap between classes, Harray said.

While the sophomores are being mentored, juniors and seniors will develop leadership skills.

As these events take place, sophomores will be able to feel more connected to their classmates and to others around campus.

"At the end of their sophomore year, we want sophomores to be more independent, ready to take on more responsibility of getting to know others and ready for leadership," Harray said.



Photo by Danielle Zoellner

A nationwide epidemic

The "Sophomore Slump" is a widespread phenomenon, not something confined to MVNU. While many students drop out that first year, returning students also are at risk. Sophomores — and even some juniors — often fall into what researchers are calling the "murky middle," meaning they made it through their freshman year with no real problems, but still may lose the incentive to continue with college. Often, there is no real crisis for these students; they just do not stay on track to graduate. Top risk factors include falling grades, indecision about declaring a major, and concern with finances and debt. A 2011 Harvard University study found that 44 percent of college students nationwide drop out or fail to finish a degree within six years.

A NEW LOOK for the 586

Popular PSU hangout
more modern and inviting

By Jordyn Davis

The 586 welcomed students back this semester with a new modern look to go along with its new menu and hours.

The makeover comes as Pioneer College Caterers resumes operation of the popular hangout in the PSU.

Last year, with Student Life running the 586, students complained of minimal food choices and reduced hours. Menu choices were primarily snack items and the area was open 8 p.m. to midnight on weekdays only.

Now, the 586 is open from noon to midnight Monday through Friday with a larger variety of food and drink options.

"It is a lot of work, but Pioneer is equipped to handle it," Food Services Director Rob Stiltner said.

Changes to the menu include the addition of chicken tenders, french fries, deli sandwiches, flatbread pizzas and salads. Weird bread, a fan favorite, has returned as well and can be prepared in as little as three minutes, nearly 75 percent faster than in previous years.

Stiltner said the new options are available in an attempt to make the café a viable lunch and dinner alternative for busy students.

Other changes include adding a "meal exchange" option that allows students to receive a lunch or dinner combo from the 586 in place of a regular cafeteria meal. This is in addition to the \$30 in Roadbucks each student is afforded each semester.

The new food options, extended hours and updated decor have been a hit with students.

"It's more relaxed, more of a hangout spot," sophomore Michael Kahoun said.

Along with their positive reviews, however, students offered several suggestions, including the addition of weekend hours, the return of quesadillas to the menu and more Starbucks offerings.

Eventually, with adequate staffing, Stiltner would like to extend hours into the weekend and already has an idea of where he would like to see the café go.

Stiltner said he would love for most, or even all, of the operations to be student led, and even hopes to work with the administration to collaboratively develop an internship that can be completed within the context of 586 operations.



Freshman Alyssa Sidle checks out the weird bread at the 586.



Seniors Joanna Eberwine and Deontae Cole grab a dinner through the "meal exchange" option at the 586.



Junior Rachel Kirkham takes orders from students.



Hayley Marston, Yvonne Overley and Bawi Hniang hang out together in the PSU.

Photos by Becca Maddux



ZERO

Tolerance

“It is possible to have a fun, quality college experience without alcohol.”

~Dean of Students Aaron Quinn

By Michaela Hughes and Danielle Zoellner

Campus officials are insisting they mean business with this year's Residence Life policies.

The issue raising the most concern this year is the alcohol policy. The year opened with rumors that the campus alcohol policy was changing.

However, Dean of Students Aaron Quinn said the policy has not changed, but has been clarified.

The University has a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol, even for students of legal drinking age.

The purpose of this rule is not to be harsh or unreasonable, Quinn said, but to implement what the University believes is safe and reflects the Nazarene faith.

“It's not just because we feel it's wrong in our faith, but also because of health and safety issues,” he said.

The policy says students may be disciplined both for drinking or for being in the presence of alcohol.

“Even if you're not consuming it but you're in the presence of it, you are knowingly allowing it to happen,” Quinn said.

Quinn and other Residence Life officials also have stressed that police will be involved in cases of underage drinking.

“An underage violation of alcohol is in violation of Ohio Revised Code. It is not only a commitment to community violation, but a violation of criminal police law,” Quinn said.

The University is obligated to report underage drinking to meet federal guidelines and maintain eligibility for certain types of financial aid, he said.

That rule was tested early in the semester when a group of students was caught consuming alcohol in an apartment on campus.

Quinn could not comment on the incident, but the Viewer confirmed that a report was filed with the Mount Vernon City Police Department.

The MVNU Student Handbook is specific about disciplinary action for alcohol consumption.

Consequences for a first offense include an eight-week program that incorporates counseling and participation in various educational programs, Christian service and other activities. A second offense results in immediate dismissal from the University.

However, the Dean of Students has the right to evaluate incidents on a case by case basis, Quinn said.

“It depends on prior offenses, what other things are found, how the students conduct themselves and how they comply,” Quinn said.

An underage violation typically will result in more severe consequences, he said.

Quinn said the University's goal is to create a safe environment where students recognize and uphold the values of the institution.

“We can dream with each other, and we can enjoy time with each other even though one may believe in drinking and one may not believe in drinking. It is possible to have a fun, quality college experience without alcohol,” he said.

A new vision for MVNU

MVNU officials have begun a series of initiatives to redefine the scope of Cougar athletics. The new plan includes adding programs, updating facilities and building sponsorships in the community.

The University is looking at the possibility of adding football and lacrosse programs in coming years.

A lacrosse team could begin competing as a club sport as early as next fall, and campus officials are giving serious consideration to a football team in the future. The prospect of wrestling also has been mentioned.

Though lacrosse does not create the same hype as football, it's a sport growing in popularity, said MVNU Athletic Director Aaron Quinn.

"Lacrosse is one of the fastest-growing high school sports in our area," Quinn said.

The adoption of football is less certain. The football question has been tossed around informally for years, but now University officials have decided to take a more serious look.

"We are seeing whether it's even possible or realistic for MVNU," Quinn said.

A committee began meeting this fall to research the pros and cons of establishing a football program. Members will look at the financial impact as well as the culture that comes along with football.

"We are going to ask ourselves the hard questions," MVNU President Dr. Henry Spaulding said.

Spaulding said he expects football would result in enrollment growth. But along with that could come an increase in disciplinary actions.

"The culture may be disruptive. That is the nature of those kinds of sports," Spaulding said. "We would have to deal with the issue of more aggressive male athletes."

Campus administrators already have reached out to the Indiana Wesleyan University athletic director for advice. IWU trustees approved a football program in 2016. The team is expected to begin competing in the fall of 2018.

MVNU officials also are connecting with current and former coaches, players and administrators at all levels to help them reach their decision.



Graphic by Gerod Harder

New facilities

MVNU is working on plans and cost estimates for a new stadium to be built across Martinsburg Road. Ideally, the new stadium would include a turf field and a track, along with seating, concessions and lights for night-time play.

"This has been a long-standing vision for MVNU athletics," Director of Athletics Aaron Quinn said.

Upgraded facilities would "enhance practice and performance" for both the soccer and the track and field teams, as well as help with recruiting, Quinn said.

Improved facilities also open up opportunities for the campus to host other activities such as high school tournaments and other events, he said.

Sources said the stadium could cost \$3 million or more, and is probably four to five years away.

New JV teams

The University has recruited for some JV sports programs in the past, but the JV programs have typically been inconsistent and somewhat unknown to the rest of campus.

This year, the school is running JV teams in men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's soccer. Meanwhile, the athletic administration is working with softball and volleyball to implement JV programs.

"We are growing new JV sports in programs that hadn't had them in the past, but I want there to be consistency in those programs," Director of Athletics Aaron Quinn said.

The JV teams typically practice and play less frequently, but still have the opportunity to continue competing in college.

Quinn said he wants to give JV players the chance to "continue playing their sport, to possibly work up to the varsity level."

New hires

Much of the work to make the new vision a reality will fall to the two newest members of the athletics staff.

Aaron Quinn, Director of Athletics

Aaron Quinn was hired as the University athletic director in June. Quinn came to MVNU in 2016 to serve as Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator. He will continue in both of those roles.



Aaron Quinn

Quinn said the opportunity to move into athletics administration at MVNU is “an answered prayer.”

Quinn played basketball at Cambridge High School, where his team made it to the state Final Four his junior year. After high school, Quinn played college ball at Capital University, Ohio University and Ohio Dominican before joining the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

He later returned to college at age 35 to finish a degree at the University of Rio Grande and played out his remaining eligibility there.

Quinn has also coached basketball at every level, grade school through college. At the college level he was an assistant at Rio Grande for seven years, working primarily with the post players and with team strength and conditioning.

The return to work in athletics has been “a very natural transition,” he said.

“Has it been a lot? Yes. Has it been wonderful? Yes,” he said.

Paul McNeal, Coordinator of Athletic Department Development

Paul McNeal has worked with Quinn in the past, and joined the MVNU staff after talking with Quinn and Dr. Henry Spaulding about the challenges and opportunities that the Athletic department wanted to take on.



Paul McNeal

McNeal said he “loved the passion of both those individuals.”

McNeal has had experience in both teaching and coaching. His most recent job was as a special education teacher and varsity girls basketball coach at Athens High School.

In his role in athletic department development, McNeal is working to build ties in the community and establish corporate sponsorships.

As assistant to the A.D., he also will help with recruiting and with helping to manage club and JV sports as the University seeks to expand its programs.

New motto



As an Athletic Department we strive to be:

- UNITED as a department
- UNITED as a campus
- UNITED as a community

A new MVNU motto is stressing the importance of unity on and off campus.

“The motto is one for the MVNU Athletics staff and student-athletes to embrace and live out in the context of the classroom, the field of play, and the community as a whole,” according to an MVNU press release.

Paul McNeal, the new development coordinator for the athletic department, said the MVNUnited philosophy came from “a need to bring together the different parts of campus.”

McNeal further explained the meaning of the new motto.

As a department: “Regardless of sport, gender or season, we want all student-athletes to respect one another as equals,” he said.

As a campus: “We do not just want to be ‘student-athletes,’ but want to reach out to other departments and be a part of activities that they are involved in as well.”

As a community: “We are trying to build relationships within the city of Mount Vernon and beyond.”

“If we want to generate excitement and growth through athletics, we have to fund it, we have to support it, and we have to be forward thinking.”

~Director of Athletics Aaron Quinn

Friendly Faces

By Brooke Schnipke

You may have noticed a few new faces on campus this year (besides the freshmen class). MVNU hired three new Resident Directors, all former students who are now back as staff members.

Ben Williams, RD of Cedar and Birch

Williams previously lived in Morgantown, West Virginia, with his wife Hannah. They were involved in campus ministry at West Virginia University.

Williams said his goal as an RD is “creating an environment where people have the best opportunity to live and learn and grow.”

The position is a great fit for his MVNU degree in pastoral ministry, he said.

“This is a position of service for me,” Williams said. “I’m here to serve the students and advocate for what is best for students, specifically in their residence life.”

The best thing about the residence area he oversees is that Cedar residents are passionate about voicing their concerns.

“This gives people a common sense of shared identity,” he said.

He also loves that Birch is really established in friendships and home to many student leaders on campus.

Rachael Dundar, RD of Galloway

Rachael Dundar graduated from MVNU in 2014. Previously, she spent time in Kansas City, taking seminary classes, and she studied abroad for a year in Ireland in 2016.

Once she got all her hours in for seminary, Dundar heard about the RD opening at her former college home.

She said her role is special because it lets her be a mentor to students during a significant stage in their lives.

“Being their support and helping them through the college experience is what



Ben Williams



Rachael Dundar



Zach Sherman

this role is all about,” she said.

Dundar said she wants all of her residents to feel a sense of belonging and connection.

“We have a really unique atmosphere here in Galloway. It’s not just freshmen; we also have upperclassmen that live here,” Dundar said. “My goal is to make sure the freshmen and sophomores aren’t separate.”

The best part of MVNU, she said, is the people.

“The people here are what makes the campus,” Dundar said.

Dundar also wants students to know that

Galloway is the place with the pooches.

“This is the dorm that has dogs!” Dundar said.

She has two mixed-breed dogs with her on campus.

Zach Sherman, RD of Spruce and Redwood

Zach Sherman also graduated from MVNU in 2014, with a degree in Theological Studies. Sherman has been on campus the past two years working as an assistant to the Dean of the School of Theology and Philosophy.

His new role is meaningful because “everything MVNU seeks to accomplish academically, socially and spiritually comes together in the area of residence life,” Sherman said.

“It’s a privilege to be part of that,” he said.

The atmosphere in the residence areas can enhance or detract from what happens on the rest of campus, he said.

“Residence Life is an area where we can foster community or dampen it, and it can create space for academic achievement or not create space,” he said.

Sherman most looks forward to building community and relationships this upcoming year.

“There are a lot of really exceptional people here,” he said. “There are so many opportunities for rich dialogue and rich relationships, and it gives me the opportunity to broaden my horizons in a variety of ways.”

ResLife Wars

Competition & Camaraderie



Photo by Danielle Zoellner
Ellen Baker hands off the next card to partner Tagg Edgell in the life-size Dutch Blitz contest.

By Jordyn Davis

As midterms approach and classwork becomes hectic, ResLife Week allows students a reprieve from homework and a chance for some friendly competition with classmates.

The annual ResLife games, sponsored by the Residence Life staff, lets teams of students from the dorms and apartments compete against one another in a week-long series of contests.

This year’s ResLife Week wrapped up on Sept. 22 with Redwood holding on to the top spot nearly all week, and

pulling through to be named 2017 ResLife Champions.

The cardboard regatta, tug-o-war and the Rezzie Awards all returned as classic events. But it was this year’s debut event, life-size Dutch Blitz, that got students talking.

Most students had heard of the game, and already knew the concept. But even those who had played the game before were unsure how it would play out on a grander, “life-size” scale.

The original Dutch Blitz is a card game that uses four different colors of cards, so four people can play at once. The object of the game is to use the

See **Competition**, page 11

GETTING A GATOR

Kenyon College recently donated a Gator to MVNU's Campus Safety department



Officer Jim McWatters takes pride in Campus Safety's new Gator. The vehicle came courtesy of Kenyon College as a thank you for providing security at the Wright Center in downtown Mount Vernon.

By Danielle Zoellner

Campus Safety received a new Gator from Kenyon College as a “thank you” for patrolling Kenyon’s Wright Center in downtown Mount Vernon.

The Wright Center, transformed from the former Buckeye Candy food warehouse building, contains Kenyon’s new film center and Office for Community Partnerships. The building is about six miles from Kenyon’s campus in Gambier.

The Buchwald Center and Hunter Hall, MVNU’s downtown buildings, are also on Campus Safety’s patrol.

Campus Safety officers say they take the responsibility seriously. Officers make rounds to the Wright Center either twice a shift or every three hours.

“We take a lot of pride in making sure we patrol it on time and we make sure all their assets and liabilities, everything, is taken care of,” Officer Jim McWatters said.

Kenyon and Mount Vernon have similar goals, said McWatters: educating and taking care of students.

Campus Safety’s goal is taking care of the buildings with professional courtesy and making sure students are safe, he said.

The security departments from the two schools have a good relationship, McWatters said.

“Our security department and their security department talk on a regular basis; we have a real good rapport back and forth,” he said.

The new Gator is getting plenty of use, McWatters said, and is an upgrade over the formerly used golf carts because it is larger, sturdier and is built for hauling materials.

Competition

Continued from page 10

four colors to make piles in the center of the game counting up from 1 to 10. The winner beats out his opponents by laying cards fastest and depleting his card pile before the other players.

Once the players for each team were briefed on the objective of the game, those watching caught on quickly and cheered loudly for their teammates.

Junior Marissa Kalina said it was one of the events she was most excited about. As part of the winning Redwood Team, she and her teammate Jocelyn Foote both said their strategy to “choose team positions carefully and communicate a ton” is what helped them succeed in the magnified version of the card game.

Overall, Dutch Blitz was a hit among students.

Junior Mikayla Smith played for Pioneer 1st South’s team.

“Dutch Blitz was a great addition to the ResLife games and it should definitely be played again next year,” Smith said.

Though the residence halls and apartments competed against each other, they all had one goal: to beat Oakwood.

A new set of wheels



Photo by Maddie Cogan

President Henry Spaulding shows off his new Chevy Suburban.



Photo by Danielle Zoellner

Plumb engages the crowd as the 20th SonFest comes to a close.

A day of SONG

SonFest 2017

The SonFest music festival celebrated its 20th anniversary this fall with popular Christian artists and bands such as Anthem Lights and Plumb.

Bharon Hoag returned to the SonFest staff this year for the first time in a decade. Hoag started the SonFest tradition when he was a student at MVNU, so it was familiar territory when he joined the team this year.

Hoag said that the staff wanted SonFest to return to its original purpose: a day to “intentionally worship God.”

A new aspect of the festival this year was a BMX show, while favorites such as food vendors, inflatables and volleyball and cornhole tournaments made repeat appearances.

One of his goals, Hoag said, was to reach beyond the campus and make an impact with the community as well.

According to Admissions officials SonFest is the biggest recruiting event for the department all year.

The annual outdoor music festival attracted crowds from central Ohio and neighboring states.



Photo by Michaela Hughes

Anthem Lights performs on the Main Stage at SonFest.



Photo by Danielle Zoellner

The crowd hangs out and enjoys the atmosphere and warm weather at SonFest.

3 days in a SHACK COMMUNITY

Reporter Danielle Zoellner reflects on her experience after participating in a homeless simulation sponsored by the Social Justice League.

By Danielle Zoellner

Fear and uncertainty; those were the first emotions I felt when I read what the simulation would consist of:

Two nights and three days.

No dorms or apartments.

No showers.

No cafeteria.

No car.

One duffel for clothes and supplies.

All while continuing to attend classes.

I realized very quickly I had to plan a lot of things in advance. And this one thought surfaced: "Wow, this is really inconvenient."

The Social Justice League orchestrated a homeless simulation called "The Shack" last week with speakers each night. The simulation was for anyone who wished to attend.

It was inconvenient to have no private walls, no locked doors, no assurance of food and no vehicle.

I thought about not doing it, about changing my mind. I thought it was reasonable. But then I would come back to this thought: "Someone lives like this."

I, and the other five students in this simulation, only had to experience this for two nights. Someone has to live like this with no known end in sight. I knew when I'd have food again. I knew when I'd have a roof, a shower, a car again.

During the first night, someone came up to give us a handout. We were only out there for two days and we were offered hot dogs, cookies, hamburgers, water, granola bars and more.

I wondered: what if we did this for someone who was actually homeless?

If anyone tells you sleeping on the ground's fun, it's not. Rocks and roots dug into my back. There was no 'comfortable' way to lie on the ground.



Students gather around a campfire during The Shack City simulation.

Photo by Danielle Zoellner

After my class ended on Tuesday, when I would normally return to my apartment to sleep,

I couldn't. I felt displaced. I had no place I could go for comfort or security.

Haley Conrad said, "It was hard not having a safe place to go when I was really tired. I thought about checking out a study room to take a nap." (I wish I had.)

"There was a separation between people I just wasn't expecting," Conrad said.

Social Justice League Vice President Kara Barger said she was constantly aware that she couldn't do or have certain things.

It was harder than she expected.

"I couldn't have food,"

Barger said. "I got really hungry."

Along with the personal experience of homelessness, the club also offered educational sessions.

The first night, Sheyenne Kuhn, a 2015 alumnus who works at Flash Point, came and spoke of her experience and knowledge with the homeless community.

It was overwhelming at moments to hear how deeply homelessness is rooted in our society and how the system works against many people.

What can I do? How can I help? We asked these questions more than once.

Barger said she learned to do small things to move forward.

"Those things can make a greater impact," Barger said. "Recognize people and look in their eyes. Seek to understand, whether through a conversation or just sitting with somebody."

What we did was take a step towards understanding. We took experience and we paired it with knowledge from those who came to speak with us about the issue of homelessness.

However, like Kara Barger, said, "I haven't even put a toe into what someone who is homeless experiences."



Photo by Gerod Harder

Junior Eric Miller helps psych up his teammates before their inaugural match at the new Ramser Tennis Courts.

Tennis RETURNS to MVNU

By Danielle Zoellner

The Cougars' first tennis team in 20 years played in its home opener last month against Grace College.

The team consists of seven members on the men's team and 10 on the women's.

In its first year of play, the tennis team is starting at the bottom of the brackets. Head coach Dan Doan said, "this is really exciting for us. The only place we can go is up."

Doan, a 2016 MVNU alumnus, also coached the tennis club which competed in scrimmages last year as a precursor to this year's formal collegiate competition.

"My job as a coach is to coach, recruit and mentor," Doan said. "My aim this year,

and even going into next year, is to build a team culture."

Doan works to better his team in both the mental and physical aspects of tennis and in their spiritual lives. His goal is for students to want to be on the tennis team.

"Whether we win or lose, I want people to see our program as a good program," he said.

Doan said he expects a short fall season, but one full of experience for his team. More matches are scheduled in the spring.

Junior Jayna Morehouse said it was rewarding to be part of the team's first home match and part of the new tradition.

Team members said it was exciting to begin formal play.

"It was awesome just to be able to play

even though we lost," Morehouse said after the first match. "It was still a good testament to our teamwork."

Sophomore Anthony Howard said the day was rewarding, and reiterated the idea that this season is about more than winning or losing.

"You can only move up so it is just fun to be able to get better and grow as a team."

The women's team is now 4-10.

Freshman Gaby Reyes at No. 1 singles is leading the way. Reyes also pairs with Morehouse at No. 1 doubles.

The men's team has had one team victory. Freshmen Danny Mayotte and Logan Gauthier have been major contributors during singles and doubles matches.



Photo by Danielle Zoellner

Senior Kevin Maurer reacts when his opponent beats him on a well-placed shot.



Photo by Danielle Zoellner

Sophomore Sarah Higgins follows through on a hard shot at midcourt.



Photo by Danielle Zoellner

Freshman Logan Gauthier sends a powerful serve across the net.



Photo by Gerod Harder

Sophomore midfielder Tim Kasperek dribbles down the field in a home game against Ohio Christian University. Kasperek scored two goals as the Cougars won 6-0.

Running towards THE ROAR

By Abbi Brown

New men's soccer coach Zach Ganzberg is teaching his players to work hard, push themselves and be fearless.

Ganzberg has instilled an attitude among the team called "Running towards the Roar."

"Running towards the roar is to run toward the things that scare you, or that you are afraid of, knowing that there is a blessing on the other side of it," the coach said.

"Our goal is to continue to get better, each training session, each game," Ganzberg said. "You can't just practice soft, and go out and play hard. You have to work hard every single day."

The team also continues to promote its Bible verse, Proverbs 27:17, which says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

The goal of the verse is to remind the team to work together and work to make each other better.

Senior captain Adam Miller said this year's team is doing a good job of living out that verse.

"We are at a level where every team we play, and every player on the field, is talented," Miller said. "The most successful teams are the ones who are able to harness that talent, pair it with their ability to come together, work hard for each other and achieve a common goal."

Currently the Cougars are 6-4 with sophomore midfielder Tim Kasperek leading the team with seven goals and one assist. Miller has 40 saves in the goal.

"One Unit, One Family"

By Abbi Brown

The Lady Cougars varsity soccer team is off to a 6-2-1 start this season. Head coach Daniel Seiffert said this year's success comes from a strong mix of physical talent and team spirit.

"One thing that I noticed right from the beginning, is the unity that the girls have displayed this year. Our leadership group has done a terrific job making sure that everyone feels welcomed and loved, and that we are one unit and one family," Seiffert said.

With a good combination of youth and experience, the team will be competitive in every game, Seiffert predicted.

Seiffert said his players consistently give 100 percent.

"Our primary goal is simple: to honor God, our teammates, our families and our university with doing our very best on the field, in the classroom and in our community," he said.

While scoring goals is important, it is also important to live up to character goals, academic goals and servant leadership goals, Seiffert said.

"So, we pour our energy and resources into providing an environment where we promote the building of strong character into better people and followers of Christ," he said.

So far this season, sophomore midfielder Amberly Knox (three goals, one assist) and freshman forward Alexa Skal (three goals, two assists) are leading the team in scoring. Senior goalkeeper Madi Moore has 35 saves in the goal.

The next game will take place at home on Wednesday.



Photo by Gerod Harder

Freshman defender Adison Preston clears the ball.



Photo by Gerod Harder
Senior Ashley Gingerich gets in position for the pass.



Photo by Gerod Harder
Sophomore middle hitter Alyssa Harrer tips the ball.



Junior Katelyn Dufur sets the ball for teammate Mary Kate Harmody.

Photo by Gerod Harder

By Eddie Dilts

The Lady Cougars volleyball players are trying to find their comfort zone this season as they face the struggle of having several changes in positioning.

Coach Paul Swanson highlighted this as the team's primary issue, but said the team will focus on "consistency in all aspects and continuing to get better."

The team still has senior leadership on the court with returning Crossroads League Libero of the Year Ashley Gingerich, as well as seniors Kelsey Bryte and Alyson Near getting plenty of minutes. Several new faces for the Lady Cougars, including Mary Kate Harmody, Casey Bunner and Maria Kolinoff, have all seen time on the court this season.

As the Lady Cougars look to find their comfort zone, Swanson reminds them that goals are not always the thing to aim for.

"Goals are deceptive, it's not just about achievement. It's about team dynamic and Christ being a part of the team," Swanson said.

The Lady Cougars are 15-10 right now. Standing out in the team stats columns are Gingerich with 530 digs (second in NAIA Division I), and junior Kristen Osborne with 299 kills (fifth in NAIA Division I). Osborne recorded her 1,000th career kill in a game over Ursuline College last month. Near has 87 blocks, seventh in the NAIA Division I rankings.

The volleyball team will play again on Tuesday at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Lady Cougars try to find CONSISTENCY



Photo courtesy of MVNU Sports Information
Noah Menuez, Rachel Gerber, MaKenzie McKirgan and Darian Pacula all placed in the top 25 at the Otterbein Invitational in September.

Running Wild

The MVNU cross country teams entered the 2017 season with a solid combination of talent and depth.

Coach Chip Wilson said he expects strong team scores from both the men's and women's teams.

"There is a great deal of excitement and anticipation as we are approaching our races," Wilson said in a preseason outlook posted by MVNU Sports Information.

So far this season, senior Darian Pacula and juniors Brennan Crawford, Noah Menuez, Jacob Lofton and De-Andre Steward have consistently led the way. Freshman Nicholas Weiss is standing out among the underclassmen.

Standout runners for the women so far this season are juniors Rachel Gerber and MaKenzie McKirgan.

In their most recent meet Friday at Cedarville's All-Ohio Invitational, the women's team finished fifth of 11 and the men finished ninth of 12 teams.