




THE VIEWER

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Homecoming 2018



“The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” ends run with sold-out crowd

By **Jehane Hoagland**

MVNU’s theater department finished its run of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” to a sold-out crowd on Nov. 9. Director Serra Barrett was impressed by the turnout to the shows.

“Turnout was great. We had great crowds and even sold out the last night,” said Barrett.

The show ran Friday Nov. 2, Saturday Nov. 3, Thursday Nov. 8 and Friday Nov. 9. The last night being the start of MVNU homecoming performed to a sold-out crowd.

Barret said it was important to pick the right show this year.

“We wanted something that was going to draw interest and would appeal to a large audience,” she said.

The play “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” is based upon the book of the same name by C.S Lewis and has underlying Christian messages.

Carolyn Ferguson, a sophomore intercultural studies and Spanish major, loves the story behind the play. She played the role of the White Stag.

“I love getting to know the story deeper within the context of Christianity and the world as we know it,” said Ferguson.

Casting for the play happened in the beginning of September. Barrett was impressed by the results.

“(Casting) was intense,” she said. “We had a lot of talented freshmen and sophomores. Ryan Long has spent three to four years building the talent. It’s an incredible cast. Everyone is who they are meant to be.”

The show had a 25-member cast.

Hannah Radke, a junior communications major, was excited about the cast for her third performance at MVNU. She played the role of the Centaur.

“You normally don’t have people from different years and majors coming together,” said Radke. “We are serious about it, but it’s also so much fun.”

Barret was pleased with the final product.

“The highlight was seeing it all come together,” she said. “There’s always this moment where, as the director, you aren’t sure if all the pieces will fall into place. But they did in a big way. I’m thrilled. The cast and crew worked really hard, and it showed”

Molly Scheich, a junior psychology major, loved the process in her first performance in MVNU drama. Scheich played the role of the Unicorn.

“I’ve really enjoyed working with the other actors and actresses. I’ve enjoyed

watching us coming together as a cast and learning to embody our characters,” said Scheich.

The theater program is changing at MVNU following the announcement of the cut of the theater major and minor at the start of the school year, possibly making this the last year for performances.

“We just don’t know,” said Barrett. “It may be a club. We have a lot of assets like sets and costumes we can use. My hope is alumni continue to be involved to continue theater at MVNU. It’s very important to continue shows at a Christian university. You can’t separate arts from liberal arts.”

Barret will be directing the musical “Freaky Friday” in the spring.

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Lucy, Susan, Peter and Edmund take a look at a mysterious note during a scene from “The Lion, the With and the Wardrobe,” presented recently by the MVNU drama department. Pictured are, left to right, cast members Rachel Rinehart, Min Leinbach, Daniel Carpenter and Dean Klunzinger.

Photo by Serra Barrett

Phillips crowned MVNU Homecoming Queen

By Steph Steel

Bailey Phillips, a senior at MVNU, was crowned the 2018 MVNU Homecoming Queen homecoming ceremonies Nov. 9. She was among five other homecoming attendants that were being honored during MVNU's 50th celebration.

Current students from each academic class are chosen by their peers to represent their class at MVNU's annual homecoming celebration. Surveys are distributed via email to students for the members of that class to submit their votes. Female students were voted for based on the understanding that they "exhibit the qualities of a godly leader in the school, including having integrity, showing a sense of responsibility, high academic standing, reliability and caring for others."

Freshman representative and nursing major Brea Garretson, said, "Being on MVNU's 2018 homecoming court is a huge honor and privilege. She added how she "aspires to live in a way that exemplifies Christ in this way,"

after mentioning how she looks up to the upperclassmen who were also on homecoming court.

Sophomore representative Ean See, who is majoring in communication sciences and disorders, expressed her gratitude and excitement about being chosen by their classes. She said, "Being able to see and hear how God has moved through MVNU over the past 50 years has been very eye-opening. This experience has made me realize how blessed I am to be part of this story!"

Maddison Near, an early childhood education major and varsity basketball athlete, was the representative for the junior class.

Bailey Phillips, Sydney Mohnasky and Kristen Osborn all represented the senior class, majoring in pastoral ministry, double majoring in intercultural studies and social work and majoring in biology, respectively.

Phillips is MVNU's student body president, an honors student and the co-president of Sustainability Club on



Bailey Phillips was crowned 2018 MVNU Homecoming Queen during the annual coronation ceremony Nov. 9 at Ariel Arena. Escorting Phillips is junior Daniel Luther.
Photo by Maddie Sestina

campus. When asked what it means to be named the 2018 homecoming queen, Phillips said, "It means so

much to be honored by my peers and I am so thankful that I have this MVNU family around me."

Alumni and students featured at entertainment showcase

By Eddie Dilts

Mount Vernon Nazarene University hosted a free entertainment showcase Nov. 10 featuring alumni and students at Thorne Performance Hall as a part of homecoming events.

Performances included piano, guitar, singing, monologues, duets, trios and much more.

Assistant professor of music Elizabeth Barrett had been planning on having a fall showcase when assistant professor of theatre Ryan Long had the idea to add MVNU alumni to the showcase.

"The challenge has been coordinating and getting schedules together

with alumni, but I think it's been worth it," Barrett said.

Barrett was excited to have many alumni back to perform and giving students an opportunity to have a workshop to improve on a piece.

According to Barrett, the performers worked on "bringing this piece in every week and developing it, determining how we can make this one song or this one performance have every element that a performance should have."

The showcase had a theme of hope, which Barrett believes was featured throughout the show through both humor and serious topics.



Performing the song "Agony" from "Into The Woods" at the talent showcase during homecoming festivities Nov. 10 at Thorne Performance Hall are Allen Terwilliger and Chase Tennant.
Photo by Maddie Sestina

Diversity and creativity celebrated through mural

By Jaxon Yoder

The creative endeavors of several MVNU students have finally come to fruition with the Shine Forth mural unveiled Nov 10, celebrating the diversity and creativity present on campus.

The project took two and one-half years to complete, with most of that time dedicated to careful planning in both brainstorming and sketching. Jim Singletary, director of Intercultural Life at MVNU, describes the process as, “Imagine trying to capture the MVNU experience. Everybody’s weighing in, every perspective you’re trying to think about, not leaving anybody out

“The key is trying to be inclusive; it’s challenging,” he said, “[A junior’s] experience would be different from that of a graduate, a sophomore.”

The project was first conceived in Sep. 2016 by now Senior Michaela Hughes. “It took us about a year of failure and playing around with ideas from different students,” said Hughes, “We thought we could get it done in one school year. We were biting off more than we could chew.”



Spearheading the Shine Forth project and posing by the mural during the dedication ceremony Nov. 10 are, left to right, Iwalani Capobianco, Erin Phillips, Michaela Hughes, Olivia Huth, Julia Armstrong and Madison Sestina.

Photo by Noah Torralba

Hughes detailed the painting process, stating, “As an artist, you have to think about cohesiveness. When you have 10 plus hands on a piece, you’re gonna start seeing different things.” She mentioned how different brush strokes from different team members

looked different. “You would have to go over and paint over spots so that they would look like the rest of the painting.”

“I’m so grateful that people were able to take it on and were dedicated and used their creative ability,” said

Hughes. “This has everything to do with the core things I believe in, which is unity, finding ways to incorporate creativity to teach about diversity, inclusion, and just hope and faith in having a bright future.”

2018 homecoming a monumental event

By Will Clark

Homecoming 2018 was a fun-filled and very exciting time for Mount Vernon Nazarene University. This year’s homecoming happened to be the University’s 50th anniversary. There were many activities and much to do for this special occasion on campus. Travis Keller, the director of alumni relations, as well as the person who put everything together for this momentous occasion, shed some light on the events surrounding homecoming. Homecoming each year happens to be Keller’s busiest week of the semester as he is trying to coordinate reunions, honoring former athletes and other important events. This year’s homecoming required that he go above and beyond the usual responsibilities and events that take place during homecoming week. He said that planning

for this year’s homecoming preparation began September of last year. A few events he coordinated for this special event are the Alumni Leadership Summit, Entertainment Showcase and the Golden Gala. When it comes to attending homecoming events, Keller has been involved with it for around 12 years now. One of the biggest things that Keller looks forward to most about homecoming each year is being able to see all his friends and working with friends and colleagues all over campus.

Madison Krebs, an admissions counselor here at MVNU, has a bit of a different perspective on homecoming than others on campus. Like Keller, she has also helped with homecoming the past couple of years. One of the things she loves most about homecoming is seeing everyone coming togeth-

er, sharing stories as well as watching the campus come alive with so many people around.

“MVNU celebrating its 50th anniversary is very special to me. While working in admissions, I have met many alumni who went here and had great experiences here,” said Krebs. “I love knowing that they experienced the same love of Christ and the same community that I experience to this day. God has brought this university so far, and I love to be a part of changing the world with the love of Christ. I’m excited for the future of MVNU!”

Trevor Monk, a junior sports management major, was also quite excited for MVNU’s 50th anniversary. Though he has not been around for very many homecomings, Monk does look forward to the homecoming chapel and the emphasis put around it. Monk

finds it to be quite amazing that the university has made it to this historic mark. He also enjoys seeing some of the changes that have happened over the past couple of years and hearing about how things were when former students went here.

The homecoming events and festivities are always a momentous occasion here at MVNU, but this one will definitely be put in the history books as an amazing milestone in the history of Mount Vernon Nazarene University. So many people have come together for this event, and so many people have been involved in order to make this occasion as special as it is. To say the very least, everyone in and around MVNU is overjoyed at how far the university has come and how far it still can go.

Knox Needs takes over November

By Michaela Hughes

There are many opportunities here on MVNU's campus that encourage students to get involved in the community. Among those opportunities is Knox Needs, an organization that provides resources for those who are in need and may deal with food insecurities.

Knox Needs partners with Food For the Hungry to provide for those in need. Food For the Hungry specializes in serving those who deal with poverty by providing meals and emergency utilities vouchers for immediate-need families.

Here in Knox County, there are many ways to volunteer. Director of Community and International Ministries Catie Hayes believes one way to get involved is to learn about what it means to be affected by poverty.

"We help to educate on campus about food insecurities and what it really looks like," said Hayes. "We try to break down some of those myths that people don't work hard enough, people are lazy, drug addicts or whatever is attached to food insecurities."

Hayes works to make sure that students are educated through many events, some which take place during November. Rather, students volunteer or attend for the experience; there are many ways to serve during this month.

Some of the events that have taken place on campus are Documentary Night, a documentary about poverty and the importance of Knox Needs in the community; Knox Needs Market Place, which includes hand-made goods from faculty and staff, with all proceeds going towards Knox Needs; plus Homecoming 5k Gold Rush, Quarter Auction and Friday Night Live.

There are also opportunities off

campus, outside of November, such as the Food For the Hungry fundraiser. During every week, there are hot meals that students can volunteer for at churches around the Mount Vernon area as well.

Hayes acknowledges that with campus being the space where students are primarily focused on classes and social life, it's easy to forget about what others are going through outside of the college life. Hayes believes these events will help students understand what

food insecurity looks like outside of campus. With continuous student involvement, Hayes recognizes that they have helped accomplish the mission of Knox Needs.

Believing it's not just about donating, "It is not just something you can throw money at; on campus, we can talk about it, but we have to actually do something," said Hayes.

Hayes hopes that students will continue to value the exposure that Knox Needs has provided. Even more importantly, her goal is for

students to get to know the people they serve and support.

"In my eyes, the most important thing would be to go into the community; giving money is really great -- equally as important or more important is stepping out and meeting the people that we're giving that money to," said Hayes.

If you would like to give a generous donation to Knox Needs visit: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?c-st=8006c6>

An unforgettable evening at Golden Gala

By Walter Blanks

The campus of MVNU was filled with people and excitement as the community came together to celebrate 50 years of ministry on Nov. 10.

The most anticipated event for most attendees on homecoming weekend was the Golden Gala which took place in the Donoho Recreation Center in the Prince Student Union. The recreation center was beautifully decorated and transformed into a spectacular meeting place with live music for

the evening entertainment.

"We transformed our original competition gym into an elegant dinner space complete with live music provided by our jazz band," said MVNU Director of Alumni Relations Travis Keller. "Our goal was to celebrate 50 years of MVNU history in one of our original spaces while envisioning the possibilities for the next 50 years."

The old gym was filled with over 500 alumni and faculty, all there to come together and think on times of the past. Numerous awards were also presented to alumni who embody the vision of MVNU in the eyes of servanthood on campus and within the community. The alumni council decided to select one person from each decade, including one from the Pioneer Class, as award winners. The award was a globe lamp which signified lives that show God's light in a dark world.

MVNU alumnus Jeremy Parsons served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, giving many fond and humorous memories of MVNU before announcing numerous awards. Parsons is a television personality who has had multiple appearances

as entertainment anchor on Los Angeles' No. 1 morning show, the KTLA Morning News. He can also be seen as the co-host of People.com's daily show, People Now.

Also addressing the crowd was MVNU President Dr. Henry Spaulding who presented the challenge to all of "Stacking Stones." Spaulding referred to the story of Joshua in the Bible as he pursued God's promise in walking across dry ground and occupying the Promised Land.

"We need to inspire every generation to remember that God has delivered," said Spaulding. "In all we do, we need to leave a marker of God's faithfulness . . . thus, we stack our stones."

There was also a big announcement that took place during the gala. Keller announced that the athletic department is working to build a new sports complex for the soccer and lacrosse teams. The \$2 million endeavor is well underway as a local community donor has committed to match every dollar up to \$1 million. MVNU has already received over \$300,000 in gifts and pledges toward the project.



Dr. Henry Spaulding encouraged all to "stack stones" in remembrance of God's faithfulness.

Photo by Gerod Harder

Family Weekend wraps up with fall fun at Oaktoberfest celebration

By Rachel Rinehart

Despite the cold air and threat of rain, MVNU's annual Oaktoberfest brought in a huge crowd for Family Weekend on Oct. 20.

The event invites students and families to enjoy fall themed-snacks, live music and various fall activities. There was also a special dinner provided by the Pioneer College Caterers.

With the departure of former Oakwood Resident Director Kevin Peterson, Oaktoberfest was put into the hands of Oakwood RD Jake Booher.

Booher is trying his best to follow in Peterson's footsteps.

"Since I am inheriting this event from the amazing Kevin Peterson, I figured it was best for my first year to learn from his example how to make Oaktoberfest run smoothly. So this year, we didn't have anything new, but we stuck with the tried and true formula for fantastic fall fun! As we look forward to the years to come, I will certainly look for opportunities to expand and provide even more activities for students to enjoy," said Booher.



As an alumni of MVNU, Booher fondly remembers Oaktoberfest.

"I looked forward to it each and every year, as did all of my friends! Now I have the honor of helping provide this event for the current student body? What a dream," said Booher.

The event included pumpkin carv-



Above, the Young family was busy preparing kettle corn for visitors to Oaktoberfest on Oct. 20

Below, freshman Julia Greenwich gets artsy with her Oaktoberfest pumpkin.

Photos by Rachel Rinehart.

ing, hayrides, a photo booth and bonfires. Fall snacks included kettle corn, s'mores, apple cider and hot chocolate.

Sophomore theatre major Laura Beth Fraley loved the event.

"I enjoy it because it really rings in the autumn season! It's set up in a way that encourages community and fellowship with one another through fun activities like pumpkin carving, or simply sitting around a fire eating s'mores and sipping hot apple cider. It really brings the students and campus community closer together."

Fraley's family also attended this year.

"My family loves it because it's a chance for all of us to be together in a family-friendly environment and still experience campus life at MVNU. We get to introduce our friends to our family and enjoy that time of fellowship. The delicious food, games, and people make it an event that even my little siblings look forward to each year."



Guanakiando: Building a community one shirt at a time



By Anna Chrysler

Gerardo Molina has had a passion for creating a community to represent his country, El Salvador, ever since he was 14 years old.

He would have never imagined coming to Mount Vernon, Ohio, as a student-athlete to further his education to grow his future business.

Guanakiando is a clothing apparel and retail business out of La Libertad, El Salvador. Guanakiando's mission is to build a community for El Salvadorians to represent their country proudly and in style.

The Guanacan heritage is what makes El Salvadorans who they are. Guanakiando invites individuals to share their stories and represent their Guanacan heritage.

Founder and Owner of Guanakiando, Gerardo Molina, is a 19-year-old student-athlete at Mount

Vernon Nazarene University studying marketing.

This month, Guanakiando is celebrating its first year of business, a milestone that Molina and the Guanakiando team could not have done alone. Away from his home in El Salvador, Molina built his business in 2017 while studying at Barton Community College, located in Kansas. There he met people from all around the world, whom he knows he will work with one day in the future to expand the brand.

After completing his college education, Molina believes he will look back and thank his younger self for bringing his dream to life at a young age.

"It is amazing how I started this business with little money, just my savings. That was my sacrifice. Eventually, I had to decide it was a risk that I wanted to take, and it has been so worth it," Molina said.

Molina's mission is close to his heart, but he has not done it alone.

"No matter where you are from, you will have the chance to be a part of El Salvador because you are a part of Guanakiando."

"It is incredible how God is a part of this, because every single person who is a part of this business is my friend, and they don't ask for anything in return," Molina said.

Molina has an important personal relationship with every person who has built Guanakiando's success.

"I know that one day I will be able to return the favor for their help, time and energy. The people who help me, I will never forget, and they know that. They are still helping me despite that," he said.

Molina does not just want to give back to his friends who help him build his business; he wants to give back to his community.

"I want to make this a community, because in the future, I want to help people, provide jobs for the people of El Salvador and give the opportunity to the young people to see that they can use their creativity and ideas to take risks," Molina said. "This can be a brand, but a brand and identity for the people."

Because of his hard work, good intentions and heart, Molina believes that God will bless his future business.

"I am confident that my business will be one of the best in El Salvador and Central America. I am sure of that because God never sleeps. He is always looking for who is open to

work and put all their effort into what they do," Molina said.

"No matter where you are from, you will have the chance to be a part of El Salvador because you are a part of Guanakiando."

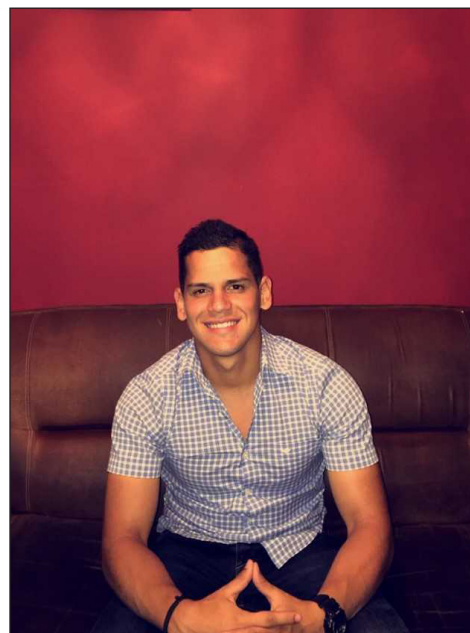
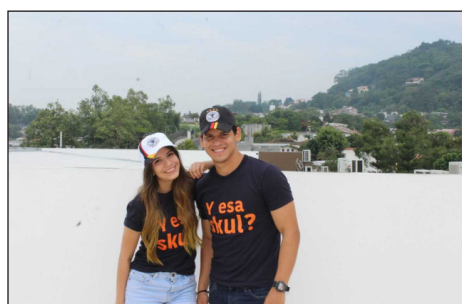
Guanakiando shirts and apparel are purchased from around the globe.

Molina wants to expand and share his brand. His primary focus is becoming a strong business in his own country before expanding and reaching out.

"It's been a long journey and process, and this is hardly the beginning to establishing our mission to build community," Molina said.

Guanakiando is advertised through Instagram, Facebook and summer events. Additionally, the company has some partnerships and promotions in El Salvador.

Shirts are for sale for \$10 - Follow Guanakiando on social media for sales and promotions!



Follow Guanakiando on social media!



@guanakiandosv



@guanakiando

MVNU's Soccer Programs: Developing Great Athletes into Greater People

By Anna Chrysler

The seniors for the men's and women's soccer programs left an impeccable mark on their teams concluding the 2018 fall season.

"Don't play for yourself - play for the guy running next to you on the field."

The men's and women's soccer seniors were shaped into who they are today through their experiences as student-athletes. They shared how leadership has led to success in their careers.



Leading the men's soccer team, seniors Gerardo Rivas from El Salvador and Rodrigo Barauna from Brazil, made an indelible impact on their team throughout their careers.

Gerardo Rivas served the men's soccer team as a captain and center defender, always leading from his heart.

"He has an innate ability to make people feel included, comfortable and loved," head coach Zach Ganzberg said.

Rivas brought a grateful attitude and enjoyed sharing his Latino music, Christian values and positivism to the team.

Rivas learned that hard work creates success and leaders.

When asked to give a phrase that describes his soccer career, Rivas stated, "La más grande bendición de Dios," which means, "The greatest blessing from God" in Spanish.

Being a student-athlete taught Rivas that nothing comes easily, how to put others before himself, and show others how to do the same. He hopes to use what he learns as he plans to work for a non-profit organization following graduation spring 2019.

When asked to share his advice to his team, Rivas stated, "Always stay humble, and stay in God," Rivas said.

Rodrigo Barauna, primarily playing left defender, learned that leadership is supporting and enabling his team to be the best they can be.

"Rody is so adept at lightening the mood and keeping the team grounded," Ganzberg said.

Barauna learned how to manage his time, responsibilities, school, soccer and social life throughout his four years at MVNU. He believes that leadership is about supporting and enabling a team to be the best they can be.

Barauna left his legacy by pushing his teammates to enjoy the game of soccer, from practices, to bus rides, and games.

"Don't play for yourself, play for the guy running next to you on the field. Don't be afraid to make mistakes; we're a family and we have each other's back. Most importantly, remember to have fun while you play this game," Barauna

said.

Ganzberg said that together, Rivas and Barauna left a greater legacy than one would expect from a two-person senior class.

"They've set the bar high for senior classes to come," Ganzberg said.

The women's soccer team could not have had a more supportive, adaptable, and devoted senior class this past fall season.



Transitioning into their first season under head coach Sarah Maracani, the senior class led the team through their character, hard work and dedication.

Senior Eleanor Fleetwood emphasized her class's strong leadership for the varsity team this past year.

"Together, I think we brought both soccer and spiritual wisdom to the team. Personally, being on this team, despite injuries, has taught me to encourage someone and to put the team first," Fleetwood said.

Maddie Gaines, captain and outside forward, explained how the team had to unify starting at the beginning of the season.

"This past year, us girls became a family the first week of preseason, starting when we completed all the fitness tests. Everyone was just encouraging each other and rooting so much for each other

throughout the changes going on this year," Gaines said.

Much of the team's successes throughout their regular and conference seasons are credited to the senior class's leadership.

Megan Casselberry, as a midfielder, learned that, "leadership is doing the right thing when no one is watching, putting the team before yourself, and helping to create and empower new leaders," she said.

Captain and attacking-midfielder, Morgan Gibson, said that she will use leadership skills she has learned the past four years in her future career as a nurse.

"The women's soccer team has made me a better person by the challenges we've faced and had to overcome together. It's helped to prepare me for my life after college because of our teamwork, learning to rely on one another, and helping me to be reliable for others," Gibson said.

This senior class has brought laughter, love and wisdom to the Lady Cougar culture, and their legacy will not be forgotten.

"Being a part of this family has taught me how to love others, and how to have discipline. It has taught me that life is going to be hard at times, but you are going to get through it. It's taught me how important it is to have a community and have sisters in Christ. Because of this team, I know that keeping God first makes a life worth living," defender and forward, Olivia Crichlow said.

Season comes to an end for MVNU women's volleyball team

By Matt McKenzie

The Mount Vernon Nazarene University women's volleyball team wrapped up another season under head coach Paul Swanson this fall, compiling a record of 15-20 overall and 3-15 in Crossroads League action.

The season, although not what the ladies wanted, had many bright spots. This season saw Lady Cougar senior Kristen Osborn reach the 1,500-kill mark, as well as entering the top 10 in kills all-time in the history of the program. In addition, the emergence of freshmen Ellie Ruby, Nichole Winkler, Tory Small, and Regan Nickol has the future looking bright.

Also, after the season, the court in Ariel Arena was dedicated to Coach Swanson. Ariel Arena is now Paul Swanson Court at Ariel Arena. During the men's basketball game vs. Cornerstone on Nov. 10, a ceremony during halftime honored the long-time coach of 35 years. The dedication surprised Swanson as multiple alumni and current team members were present.

"The night before, the MVNU athletic department added three new hall of famers, and I just thought it would be a recognition of all hall of famers that were in the crowd," Swanson said. "The dedication is a testament to this awesome university for believing in me and my players for always giving their best".

Key players this season that helped the offense were Osborn (361 kills), Winkler (317 kills), sophomore Mary Kate Harmody (246 kills) and Small (236 kills). Senior Katelyn Dufur helped set up the attack with 555 total assists as well as Nickol who had 424 assists.

On the defensive side, Osborn and Ruby led the defense with 839 combined digs. The Cougars had some very nice moments on the court, but Osborn knows playing has never been about wins and losses, stats or bragging rights.

"Coach Swanson has reminded us the most important thing is that our hunger for competition, perseverance



Audrey McCullough



Katelyn Dufur



Kristen Osborn

in hard times, humility and team-oriented attitude reflecting a love for Jesus and a desire to use his gifts he has given us for his glory," Osborn said.

In the four years playing for MVNU, Dufur, Audrey McCullough, and Osborn had a record of 96-47 overall, 50-30 in the Crossroads League and 38-12 at home. The four years also included a Crossroads League regular season and tournament championship in 2015

and two NAIA national tournament appearances.

There have been many memories for the seniors, but certain ones stick out.

"I will always remember winning the conference championship at home vs. Indiana Wesleyan," Osborn said. "My favorite memories include going to Oregon for the opening round of the NAIA tournament and holding the very first Halloween practice this year

where we all dressed up in costumes," Dufur said.

After this season, the Lady Cougars will bring back 13 players that all played in a match this year. The team will look to build off the positives of this season and are looking forward to a good spring to gear them up for next season.



Members of the MVNU 2018 women's volleyball team are front row, from left: Ellie Ruby, Mikayla Nelson, Nicole Winkler, Katelyn Dufur, Audrey McCullough, Kristin Osborn, Casey Bunner, Emilee Riley and graduate assistant Molly Alexander. Back row, head coach Paul Swanson, Regan Nickol, Maria Kolinoff, Mary Kate Harmody, Allison Williams, Tory Small, Alyssa Harrer, Alaina Wright, Hannah Ervin and graduate assistant Kelsey Bryte..

MVNU men's basketball looks to keep solid season going

By Matt McKenzie

The Cougars of Mount Vernon Nazarene University men's basketball will look to continue a solid season going after early-season success, which includes wins over two top-10 opponents in the NAIA national poll.

The team's success started early in the season with a double overtime thriller over No. 5 Indiana Tech, 101-98, after big games from sophomore Jevon Knox and senior Brett Vipperman. After wins over Kent State at Tuscarawas, Denison and Rio Grande, the team would play in the MVNU Homecoming Classic.

The first game of the classic included No. 7 Cornerstone University and No. 9 Union College, which Cornerstone won. After that game, the Cougars would take on sister school Olivet Nazarene University. The Cougars dominated this game, winning 87-66. MVNU and Cornerstone would then battle to triple overtime in the Classic's championship game with MVNU winning, 117-110.

The No. 15 Cougars are one of the multiple-ranked Crossroads League teams, which include No. 1 Indiana Wesleyan, No. 8 Marian University, No. 16 St. Francis (Ind.) and No. 23 Bethel (Ind.).

The grueling schedule of the Crossroads League is one of the reasons the Cougars have scheduled teams like Indiana Tech, Cornerstone and Walsh University in an exhibition game.



Brett Vipperman (20) goes up high for a rebound in MVNU Homecoming Classic action against Olivet Nazarene University while looking on is Jordi Mas (33). The Cougars posted an 87-66 victory.

Photo by Noah Torralba

The Cougars have big goals for this season, but head coach Jared Ronai

knows his players have a lot more to improve on to reach their goals this

season.

"I am happy with our growth so far this season, but we have much to improve upon in many areas," coach Ronai said. "Our biggest goal each and every year is to become the best that we are capable of becoming."

The senior class for this year's team includes Jordi Mas, Jeremiah Roberts and Brett Vipperman. Coach Ronai has been along side these seniors all four years and knows that they have a lot more to write in their story at MVNU this season.

"This year's senior class, along with red shirt junior Austin Jones, was our first recruiting class, and they have a great understanding of how we operate on and off the floor," coach Ronai said. "I think the leadership on this team is outstanding, and I am looking forward to watching them continue to grow in this area throughout the season."

Senior Brett Vipperman, in his last season, knows how thankful he is playing for coach Ronai.

"Playing for coach Ronai has been an incredible experience. He has helped develop me into a better man and player," Vipperman said. "He holds us to high expectations, and it is going to benefit me in the long run."

Vipperman and the Cougars will look to continue this successful season going with a grueling schedule to play and goals of the national tournament still in front of them.

Off and running

The starting line was crowded at the start of the annual 5K run on the morning of Nov. 10 as part of the 2018 homecoming festivities, marking the 50th anniversary of MVNU.

Photo by Gerod Harder

