Speaker discusses education and the law

BY STEVE MCCULEY
STAFF WRITER

On February 21st, 2018, Mr. Dan Fiei visited Mansfield University as a guest speaker to discuss key issues in education.

Key issues in Special Education is a section of the Academy Series. Mr. Fiei’s accomplishments include serving as the Director of Student Services of the Northern Tioga School District for thirteen years. To start off his presentation, he discussed case law or laws established by the supreme court. These included Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896) in which the Supreme Court ruled that segregation was acceptable in education if there are equal facilities. This was reversed with Brown vs. Board of Education (1954) when the Supreme Court ruled that separate but equal was ruled unconstitutional.

In the 1960’s, parents began to advocate for better opportunities for their children. This led to advancements in special education in America. Eventually with PARC vs. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1971), it was ruled that students cannot be removed from schools due to their disability. This led to the creation of programs such as supplemental special education classrooms and eventually occupational therapy.

There were twenty-one students who had attended the seminar. Doctors Moore and Whitecraft were in attendance and students were encouraged to ask questions about Mr. Fiei’s experience. Mr. Fiei gave insight on his personal experience, including the use of due process to deal with issues that have occurred between parents and the school district. There was also mention on how special education could be improved for the area despite the economic limitations of Tioga county.

In all, there was a good amount of participation from students and professors which lead to discussion up until the end of the event. The students gathered for a picture and then the students either left or stayed to ask Mr. Fiei one-on-one questions.

Veterans organization calls for submissions

BY STEVE MCCULEY
STAFF WRITER

(Con’t on page three)

The Mansfield University Student Veterans Organization is currently looking for anyone to design a T-shirt that will be used for the RED Friday event on April 13, 2018. RED stands for Remember Everyone Deployed. We use this day to show our thanks to our service members deployed around the world. Every year, the student veteran’s organization on campus devotes one Friday out of the
POLICE BEAT
- Anyone with information on any of these events are encouraged to contact the Mansfield University Police at 570-439-4900

There is currently no information available.

World News

Headlines from across the planet

- 2/28/2018 - Rwanda closes '700 unsafe, noisy churches'
  - About 700 churches have been closed down in Rwanda for failing to comply with building regulations and for noise pollution
  - Most of them are small Pentecostal churches. One mosque was also closed
  - A government official says some of the more than 700 buildings shut down have already reopened after they were approved by inspectors
  - According to a proposed new law, all preachers must have theological training before opening a church
  - Pentecostal churches, often run by charismatic preaches claiming to be able to perform miracles, have grown rapidly
  - Church leaders have at times been criticised for using loud public address systems to attract worshippers

- 2/28/2018 - India denies involvement in Atwal affair
  - Justin Trudeau faced criticism for Jaspal Atwal being invited to a dinner reception during the PM’s first official visit to India
  - Mr Atwal, a Canadian citizen of Indian origin, was convicted of trying to assassinate an Indian minister in 1986
  - He is accused of having been aligned at the time with a Sikh separatist group
  - Mr Atwal’s invitation embarrassed the Canadian delegation, which had been trying to allay concerns it was too soft on separatists who support a Sikh independence movement
  - The invitation to a dinner being hosted by Canada’s high commissioner was quickly revoked
  - Trudeau publicly blamed the snafu on an MP from his party who extended the invite to Mr Atwal

- 2/28/2018 - Venezuela opposition expels poll candidate
  - Venezuela’s opposition has expelled former state governor Henri Falcón after he said he would stand against President Nicolás Maduro in April’s election

- 2/28/2018 - Russia’s Olympic membership restored by International Olympic Committee
  - Russia was banned from February’s Games by the IOC over state-sponsored doping
  - Despite the ban, 168 Russians competed as neutrals in South Korea, and two of them failed drug tests
  - The IOC planned to reinstate Russia after the Games - so long as there were no more failed tests - and it says all remaining samples were negative
  - The Russian Olympic Committee’s suspension has been lifted despite this
  - The OAR was the third largest competing group and won 17 medals

- 2/28/2018 - Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf defends immigration raid tip-off
  - Federal officials say a California mayor’s “irresponsible” tip-off about an immigration raid allowed more than 800 “criminal aliens” to evade capture
  - Oakland leader Libby Schaaf has defended her warning to the public about the immigration agents’ swoop
  - US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents said they were nevertheless able to detain 150 people
  - Mayor Schaaf said she had consulted with her legal team before issuing the weekend’s warning

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- 2/28/2018 - Signal detected from ‘cosmic dawn’
  - Scientists say they have observed a signature on the sky from the very first stars to shine in the Universe
  - A small radio telescope in the Australian outback was tuned to detect the earliest evidence for hydrogen
  - This hydrogen was in a state that could only be explained if it had been touched by the intense light of stars
  - Scientists say that this interaction occurred a mere 180 million years after the Big Bang with the cosmos being roughly 13.8 billion years old

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- The Democratic Unity opposition coalition is boycotting the vote
  - It said Henri Falcón was wrong to validate what it called a fraudulent electoral system
  - Mr Falcón defended his decision, saying he wanted to defeat a government that had “promised Venezuelans paradies, but given them hell”
  - He said he offered “a government of national unity ... that can save us from the misery to which this incompetent government has taken us”

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**Visit days planned for university**

**BY TAELOR BOWER**
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

During several days this semester, interested students will be given the opportunity to join Mansfield University for a Visit Day.

The days scheduled for these events are February 19, March 2, and April 6. These events allow prospective students and their guests to determine if Mansfield University is where they desire to pursue their higher education.

The campus will be utilizing Lot D for parking, with events starting at 8:15 a.m., and running throughout the day. There will be tours, showing the class building, dormitories, dining hall, and the MU bookstore/Alumni Hall. The prospects will be introduced to faculty/staff and students, so make sure to give them a warm and friendly welcome.

**High school students visit campus**

**BY KIMBERLY SCULLY**
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Sixty-five future Mounties and their guests toured Mansfield University’s campus during a Visit Day event on February 19.

“We want to provide a general overview of the University and have the opportunity to show off the campus,” Judith Brayer, Special Assistant to the President - Enrollment Services, said.

Mansfield Students are welcomed to welcome the future Mounties to the campus. “It is important for MU students to be involved because we want to show potential students what Mansfield’s environment is really like,” Nicole Ortiz, Mountie Ambassador, said.

Throughout the day, prospective students went to various events such as the Admissions presentation, a campus tour, lunch at Manser Dining Hall, Department meetings, a student panel, and visiting the bookstore. Students also met with faculty from academic areas, learned about student life, and many other things.

“The counselors provide an informative presentation to outline the admissions process to come to Mansfield, what classes are like here and other important information,” Ortiz said.

It is important for future students to visit campuses when selecting schools. “It is so important for future students to visit a college campus to see exactly what is offered, talk with current students, check out the campus living choices and connect with their personal admissions counselor,” Brayer said.

Besides visit days, Mansfield Admissions also holds Saturday preview days, bus trips, and overnight trips.

The next visit day events will be held on March 2 and April 6.

**Veterans organization calls for submissions con’t**

**Preventing the flu at school**

**BY TAELOR BOWER AND REBECCA RAYMOND**
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTORS

As winter winds down and classes move forward, the university is warning students to take hygiene precautions to stop the spread of the flu.

‘The virus has spread quickly throughout the community this season and there are several ways to prevent further spreading. If you do end up catching the virus the campus’ Health Clinic, on the ground floor of Spruce Resident Hall, is open to all students and can be contacted at (570) 662-4350.

There are several steps you can take in preventing beginning to aid in the prevention of the spreading of the flu virus. First, and probably most importantly, if you are sick it is best to stay home. Notify your professors and get plenty of rest, fluids, and pain/fever reducers. This will lessen the likelihood that the virus will spread to more campus officials and students.

When coughing and/or sneezing it is important that you cover your nose and mouth, to stop the spread of germs. It is also a good idea to keep tissues available at all times for you and peers who may need one. You should also try to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth because they are the quickest routes to infection.

Make sure to wash your hands frequently, using soap and water. Also, it may be smart to carry a small bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitizer with you for when soap and water are not available. Disinfect all “High Touch Areas” like faucets, door knobs, light switches, and appliances. Using disinfectant wipes is a great way to make sure your dorm room is not one of the factors in the spreading of the virus.

These small acts of healthy hygiene will lessen the risk of the flu virus spreading, but the easiest way to help stay healthy is to regularly exercise, eat healthy, and get plenty of rest. For more information, or if you have questions, contact the MU safety office at (570) 662-4906 or jwelch@mnsfield.edu.

**Students go skating**

**BY EMILY TRACY**
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday, February 19, Kelchner Fitness Center’s gym floor was a whirlpool of college students, high schoolers, and children all circling the gym floor together.

Most of the skaters came representing their best neon colors and high ponytails to fit with the night’s theme, “Back to the Eighties”. The music followed the example of the well-dressed participants with songs like ‘Love Shack’, ‘Girls Just Want to Have Fun’, and ‘Africa’. The glow stick necklaces and bracelets sported by the skaters lit up the gymnasium, making it feel more like a party with every pass around the floor.

All types of skaters could be found Monday night on the ground floor of KFC. Couples held hands and held each other up, or picked one another up after falling. Groups of friends raced around the track while dancing, and some spent the whole night practicing on their skates, moving from the benches that line the floor to skating with their friends.

There were students who skated backwards, and others that fell backwards. Friends helped each other up after falling or pulled their phones out to take videos or photos of their fallen or still learning comrades.

“I loved this,” Rachel Lehman, a junior, said. “I will be back tomorrow night and that’s a promise.”

“The gym should do this one night every week,” Veronica Phillip, a sophomore, said. “So many students are here and they are all having so much fun.

The gym was filled with eighties hits and the laughter of skaters until 11 p.m. that night.
North Hall prizes will be awarded

BY TE’WUAN THORNE
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

The North Hall Prize 2017 is preparing to choose its winning papers.

The entry period for The North Hall Prize ended on February 14, and has received twenty-three entries in this year's contest. The reward committee judges will be meeting to read through the entries over spring break and will announce their decision after the break. The students with the winning research papers will receive a check for $150 dollars and an official certificate at the academic honors ceremony on April 9 in Steadman Theatre. The North Hall Prize is a contest that calls for the best research papers from the student body of Mansfield University. The judges of the reward committee will be marking papers on originality, scholarship, writing, research skills and faculty recommendation.

There are two categories in the contest: Short papers that are five to nine pages; which had seven entries this year and long papers that are ten or more pages; which had sixteen entries. For any class that a student had to do a research paper for, the professor has the ability to nominate them. The $150 dollar prize money and certificate are awarded to the winner in each category and the winners are also given the chance to have an honorable mention, who will receive a certificate.

The reward committee consists of four faculty members: Fran Garrison (Library Rep.), Lynn Pifer (Humanities Rep.), Jeanne Kagle (Sciences Rep.) and Timothy Madigan (Social Sciences Rep.).

“It’s interesting you get papers from all over and we want to reward good research and good writing.” Said Garrison.

The entries this year came from students in ten different departments: Honors (1), Music (1), English (5), History (5), Communications (5), Biology (3), Psychology (3), Nursing (1) and Criminal Justice (1).

Last year both winners were English majors and the honorable mention belonged to the Biology department.

“The papers vary as far as winning subjects, some of the English ones are about particular literature,” Garrison said. “[There] are always a couple from history that are on the Holocaust.”

The North Hall Prize was started by the retired library faculty member, Matt Surret in 2009. For more information go to http://lib.mansfield.edu/info/prize where you can find the rules and the names of the previous winners and their papers.

Apply for returning student scholarships

BY KIMBERLY SCULLY
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Returning students for the 2018-2019 school year can apply for academic and need-based scholarships until March 31.

“Students are able to apply online through their My.Mansfield accounts. There is a Returning Student Scholarship link. It asks for demographic, academic, and extra-curricular information” Denise Davey, Enrollment Services Representative, said.

Additional applications can be found on the Financial Aid webpage.

“The number of scholarships awarded is based on the funding available each academic year so it varies from year to year” Davies said. The Financial Aid webpage has a full list of all the scholarships being offered for this semester.

There are a variety of different scholarships. Some of the ones that are being given out are Alumni Memorial, Hendricks ’79 H2S, Manning Athletic, Place Barnes Nursing, and Psychology.

Funding for the scholarship depends on the fundraising, market, and donor gifts given to each one every year.

“Some have more stringent criteria than others. The application helps to decide on potential recipients based on the information provided,” Davey said. Requirements can range from GPA, major, credits earned, awards and achievements, needs based on FAFSA information among others.

“Scholarships help to decrease the amount of loans you will have to pay back while also rewarding a student for academic success,” Davey said.

Food pantry gets a makeover

The Mansfield University Food Pantry has a new name and a new location.

The MU Campus Cupboard, now located in Alumni Hall, Room 116, was officially dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on Wednesday, February 14.

“We felt the name change was necessary because we don’t just provide food,” Social Work (SWK) Club President Eric Grant said. “We have personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies and other items for students who may be in need.”

“The new location gives us much more space for storage and we also now have two refrigerators, which will allow us to offer items that are perishable,” SWK Club Advisor and Department of Social Work Chair Tiffany Welch said.

Responding to a need for some of its students identified by a committee that was formed to address food insecurity across campus, the MU Campus Cupboard opened in the fall semester. Students can make use of the Cupboard and all it offers no questions asked.

The MU Campus Cupboard is currently open on Mondays from 1-5 p.m. The plan is to expand the hours as needed.

The effort is organized by the SWK Club.

“It is heartwarming to be involved in a service to our students that is clearly a community effort. We have had so much support in the form of donations from students, faculty, staff, and even the greater community from agencies and organizations such as PSECU, the local VFW, Northwest Savings bank as well as some other campus organizations such as campus ministries and the women’s center,” Welch said. “We are truly blessed”

Anyone interested in donating food, other products or money to the Campus Cupboard can email foodpantry@mounies.mansfield.edu

The Flashlight Spring 2018
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania Student Newspaper

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The Flashlight supports our professors and programs!
Current and alumni wind ensemble members perform together

BY ZOE ESPERSETH
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Over eighty Mansfield University Concert Wind Ensemble alumni returned to campus for a weekend to perform with current Concert Wind Ensemble members.

Alumni included members from the classes of 1978 through 2017, some of whom graduated to become music educators as well as other musical professionals.

The theme of the concert was a tribute to Dr. Donald Stanley, who was a director of the wind ensemble and the music department chair before his retirement in 1992. He passed away on November 23, 2016. In honor of Dr. Stanley, Dr. Brennan debuted his new original compositions, which are comprised of five movements inspired by memories of Dr. Stanley.

The concert began at 2:30 and was free to Mansfield University students with valid student ID. Tickets cost $10 for adults, and $5 for children.

Along with Dr. Brennan's original work, dedicated to the memory of Donald Stanley, returning alumni chose their own selections to play, as did current CWE members. The two groups then combined to perform. All groups combined came to approximately 124 performers on stage.

The Great Lakes Wind Symphony, one of few professional wind-bands in the country, also performed a concert at Mansfield on February 17.

This ensemble was founded by Mansfield University professor Adam Brennan and his business partner, Ryan Pritchard. A wind-band is an ensemble that contains no string instruments. This wind-band is based at the Kodak Center for Performing Arts in Rochester, New York, and consists of over fifty professional musicians. Their first concert debuted on December 27, 2014.

Dr. Adam Brennan has been working at Mansfield University since 1995, performing many valuable services to the University. This includes administrating the band program, conducting the Concert Wind Ensemble and directing the Mansfield marching band, which is known as ‘The Spirit and Pride of Pennsylvania.’ Dr. Brennan also worked as associate director of bands at Western Illinois University and Director of Bands at Kankakee Valley High School in Kankakee, Illinois.

Mansfield University honored by governor’s administration

Pennsylvania Secretary of Banking and Securities Robin L. Wiessmann today commended students from 12 Pennsylvania colleges and universities who will be competing in the 2018 Conference of State Banking Supervisors (CSBS) Community Bank Case Study Competition.

“The Community Bank Case Study Competition is open to undergraduate students in all fields of study as an opportunity to gain valuable first-hand knowledge of the banking industry. This year, each student team will develop an original case study that evaluates how their local community bank is using technology within day-to-day operations.

“As the financial services sector of our economy evolves because of changing consumer demands and technological innovation, the need to engage the rising generation’s interest in working in finance has become paramount,” said Wiessmann.

“Last year, four Pennsylvania schools entered this competition. I am excited to see the large increase of Pennsylvania colleges and universities choosing to compete on a national stage, as well as the number of state-chartered banks participating. We are cheering them on as they compete for this year’s prize.”

Twelve of the 47 institutions entered in the competition are from colleges and universities within the commonwealth:

- Ursinus College (Collegeville, Montgomery County), working with Victory Bank
- Grove City College (Grove City, Mercer County), working with Mars Bank
- Immaculata University (Malvern, Chester County), working with First Resource Bank
- Mansfield University (Mansfield, Tioga County), working with Citizens & Northern Bank
- Saint Vincent College (Latrobe, Westmoreland County), working with Somerset Trust
- Kentuck University (Kutztown, Berks County), working with Customers Bankcorp and New Tripoli Bank
- California University of Pennsylvania (California, Washington County), working with Washington Financial
- York College of Pennsylvania (York, York County), working with Fulton Bank
- Penn State Harrisburg (Middletown, Dauphin County), working with Fulton Bank
- University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (Johnstown, Cambria County), working with Somerset Trust
- Alvernia University (Reading, Berks County), working with Tompkins VIST Bank
- East Stroudsburg University (East Stroudsburg, Monroe County), working with Mauch Chunk Trust

Pennsylvania has more schools represented than any other state in the competition.

The student teams are competing for an academic scholarship, a chance for to get their work published in an academic journal and an opportunity to attend the sixth annual CSBS-Federal Reserve Community Banking Research Conference, held in St. Louis this October. The top three scoring teams will be announced this spring. For more information on the 2018 Community Bank Case Study Competition, visit www.csbs.org/bankcasestudy.

Anyone can contact the Department of Banking and Securities at 1-800-PA-BANKS.

Members of the public are also invited to connect to the department through Facebook and Twitter, or subscribing to the department’s newsletter.

Intercollegiate band festival concert performed in Steadman

BY DANIELLE SMITH
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band Festival’s 71st annual concert took place this past Sunday February 25, 2018 in Steadman Theatre.

The concert was mainly conducted by guest conductor Dr. Mark D. Camphouse. The program started with welcoming remarks from Mansfield University’s Interim President Mr. Scott H.W. Barton and PCBA President Dr. Joseph Pisano of Grove City College.

The National Anthem was led by Mr. Jeffrey A. Tylutki, co-host from Keystone College and The Pledge of Allegiance led by co-host Dr. Adam F. Brennen from Mansfield University.

Dr. Camphouse conducted pieces that included; Variations on America (Charles Ives), Salvation is Created (Pavel Tchesnokoff arr. By Houseknecht), In Memorium (Mark Camphouse), Symphonic Dance No. 3 “Fiesta” (Clifton Williams), and A Movement for Rosa (Mark Camphouse), Dance of the Jesters (Tchaikovsky arranged by Ray Cramer).

Remarks and Presentations was led by Professor Paul Gerlach, the Resolutions Committee Chair from Carnegie Mellon University.

Instruments present were; piccolo, flute one and two, oboe one and two, English horn, Eb clarinet, Bb clarinet, Bb clarinet two, Bb clarinet three, bass clarinet, contra bass clarinet, bassoon one and two, contra bassoon, alto saxophone one and two, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn one, two, three, and four, trumpet one, two, and three, trombone one, two, three, and four, euphonium, tuba, percussion and piano.

Mansfield University has hosted five times, and seventeen students who participated this year attend Mansfield University.

Students and directors from Albright College (Timothy Gross), Allegheny College (Lowe Hepler and Ronald Stitt), Alvernia University (James Seidel), Bucknell University (Paul D. Gerlack), Clarion University (Casey Teske), East Stroudsburg University (Vincent LaRusso), Edinboro University (Chuck Lute), Grove City College (Joseph M. Pisano), Juniata College (James Latten), Keystone College (Jeffrey A. Tylutki), Kutztown University (Daniel Neuenenschwander), Lycoming College (William Ciabattari), Mansfield University (Adam F. Brennen and Nathan Rinnert), Marywood University (R. David Romines), Mercyhurst University (Robert K. Reid), Millersville University (Keith Wiley), The University of Scranton (Cheryl Boga), Shippensburg University (Trevor R. Famulare), Thiel College (Andrew S. Erb), Wayneburg University (Ronda DePriest), West Chester University (Greg Martin and Andrew Yozviak), Westminster College (R. Tad Greig), and Wilkes University (Phillip G. Simon) all participated in the concert.
Don’t stress over midterms

BY OLIVIA MOATS
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

It is the second most stressful time of the semester: midterms. This is when people start pulling all-nighters and realizing that their grades might not be where they want them. However, all that stress is not good for a person’s health, and will cause problems that could be difficult to fix.

When a body is exposed to high levels of stress - such as not sleeping to study for an exam - it releases a hormone called cortisol. This hormone is responsible for increasing blood glucose levels by breaking down fat and muscle into glucose to be used by the body. When it does this it makes the body less sensitive to insulin, which is responsible for storing this glucose to be used later. Because of this function of cortisol, constantly having elevated levels of it present can result in diabetes.

Another job of cortisol in the body is to block immune response. Since it is the fight or flight hormone, it doesn’t allow the body to deal with a virus or bacteria that is trying to cause disease. When this happens, the body becomes more likely to get sick. That is why when people don’t sleep for extended periods of time, or when they are constantly worrying about something, they end up getting a cold.

Cortisol has the ability to constrict blood vessels and that, along with the hormone adrenaline which increases heart rate, causes the heart to pump harder to get the blood throughout the body. If this continues it puts people at a higher risk for vessel damage and plaque build-up, eventually leading to a heart attack.

Being continuously stressed can cause other health issues such as insomnia and depression, though all of these symptoms can be reduced with stress management practices. Everyone should figure out for themselves what works best to safely and healthfully combat stress. It could be doing yoga, drawing, or going to the gym. Healthy stress management is one of the best practices to make a habit, especially around testing season.

Mansfield University will present West Side Story on March 1-4 at Straughn Hall.

This is the triumphant legendary story, where love transcends language, time, and place. While Manhattan’s west side rumbles with the clash of Jets and Sharks, Maria and Tony seek “a somewhere” their romance can thrive. In their revolutionary work that changed the course of the American musical.

The show was based on a conception of Jerome Robbins with Leonard Bernstein (music), Stephen Sondheim (lyrics) and Arthur Laurents (book) bringing their award-winning genius to the immortal story of star-crossed lovers caught in a turf war of rival ethnic gangs.

Seventy-two Mansfield University students, representing 15 majors on campus, will participate in the production as cast, crew and orchestra members. The cast includes Kyle Cannon (Music Performance, junior) as Tony, Shannon Pizzirusso (Music Education, sophomore) as Maria, Tatyana Valentine (Business Administration, freshman) as Anita, Ben Eisenhour (Music Technology, senior) as Bernardo and Robert Flora (Music Education, junior) as Riff.

Music and stage direction are by Professor Sheryl Monkelien, 1993 MU graduate Peter Davis is responsible for stage direction and scenic design, with choreography by 2011 graduate Jocelyn Mullins and Brady Bennett (B.A. Music, sophomore).

Performances will be Thursday, March 1, Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 4 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are $16 for adults, $12 for seniors and students. They can be purchased online at music.mansfield.edu or at the door one hour before performances. MU students with valid ID will be admitted free.

The production is funded in part through student activity fees.

West Side Story will be performed at university
RA teaches students how to make lava lamps

BY NATALIA COLES
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Resident Assistant (RA) Gregoire Karcy (Greg), held a Lava Lamp Event for the residents of Oak Hall last Friday from 8 pm-9 pm.

“We have a lot of people in their dorms saying they’re bored, so I held this event for them to have something to do,” said Greg. Other than a DIY project, there was also refreshments at the event for the residents to enjoy. Ingredients for the lava lamps included vegetable oil, Alka Seltzer, glitter, and food coloring. Inspired a past high school chemistry project, Greg thought it would be an easy activity for the residents.

RAs are required to host at least 4 events for the residents in their hall each semester with a budget of $250. Each event must coincide with the beliefs of the Mansfield University creed, which includes points such as Character, Scholarship, Culture, and Service.

For future events Greg is planning on a “Good Eats” event that’s date is to be determined. For this event he hopes to have students of different cultures prepare different dishes for other in the resident hall to try. There will also be a Mario Kart event that he will be co-hosting with another RA from Oak Hall.

For other events located around campus, students are advised to check around their dorms for fliers, pamphlets and any more information.

Kelchner holds community skating event

BY CASEY BLAIR
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Rocking on Roller Skates was a wonderful way to start the week for many students and community members during the Kelchner Fitness Center’s annual roller skating event.

The event lasted from February 18-20 and all Mansfield university students and faculty, as well as community members, were invited to attend. Skaters had their choice of either the traditional roller skate or the newer inline roller blade.

Sunday’s event took place from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and was family fun themed. Many families took the opportunity to get out of the house on a wintry Sunday and take part in some time together. Parents were seen teaching their children how to skate, and some put skates on themselves.

On Monday, the roller skating theme was eighties disco. Eighties genre music blasted throughout the gym, and several roller skaters were dressed in their best disco garb. The event occurred from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., on the basketball gym floor on the first level of the KFC. There were approximately 95 people in attendance on Monday night, almost double of the previous night.

Tuesday night the theme was game night, mixed with a free skate. Several games were played throughout the night such as, the corner game and the reversal game, among others. Winners of the group games were awarded prizes sponsored by PSECU, the university’s on campus credit union. PSECU also handed out water bottles and other goodies to the skaters.

KFC is directed by Amy DeLozier and her assistant, Mike Stamp. The fitness center’s hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. There are also a large number of fitness classes offered throughout the week.

Taking the polar plunge

Ten Mansfield University students joined Department of Psychology Chair Gretchen Sechrist and her husband, Randy Murray, in the Lehigh Valley Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 17.

Katlyn Lutchko, Cross Kantz, Nissa Fuller, Samantha Eckrich, Aryn Hedrick, Casandra Walters, Jessica Philippi, Tanarah Duncan-Washington, Essence Gordon and Nico Alejandro, along with Sechrist and Murray, were among those who jumped into the icy cold waters of the Delaware River at Scott Park in Easton, PA to raise money for the Pennsylvania Special Olympics.

The event, one of nine held across the Commonwealth, raised more than $100,000. It also creates awareness for the programs Special Olympics has to offer.

“Thank you to the students and my husband for plunging into the cold water with me,” Sechrist said. “Thank you to my sister, Amanda Sechrist, for all she does to support Special Olympics and a big thank you to First Citizens Community Bank and Walmart in Mansfield for sponsoring us.”

Sechrist’s sister, Amanda, is manager of Northampton County Special Olympics.

To see more pictures from the Polar Plunge, go to the MU Department of Psychology Department Facebook page at facebook.com/ MansfieldPsychology/

For more information about the Polar Plunge, go to specialolympicspa.org/about-lehigh-valley-plunge

Managing student loans

BY NATALIA COLES
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Pennsylvania’s State Employees Credit Union and the Office of Financial Aid share a tip on how to better manage student loan refunds.

Beginning next week, Mansfield University’s Office of Financial Aid will begin sending out student loan refund checks. These refund checks [consist of] money from a loan payment funded to a student’s account for tuition; however, if a student receives a refund, it is money they will have to pay back when they graduate.

PSECU and the Office of Financial Aid both agree that when it comes to the distribution of these student loan checks it is NOT free money.

“A student has two options when they receive a student loan check: give the money back or use it for school related expenses,” said Dave Sikorski. “It is important to stress to students that this money will have to be paid back six months after they graduate. If they need it for personal expenses, such as paying for a car, or rent, then they have that option.”

If a student is in need of the money and has a PSECU account, then they will be able to cash or deposit their check immediately using the PSECU ATM on campus or use the mobile app.

However, if a student does not need the money from their refund check, they can give the money back and have the total amount of their loan reduced. This would detract from the original balance of the student loan: So, if a student had a $5,000 loan, but only needed $4,500, and received a $500 check, they can choose to give the money back, making the new balance of their loan $4,500. Returned checks can be given to Student Accounts for processing.

“Though it seems like free money, you will eventually end up paying it back,” said an Office of Financial Aid representative. “It may be easy to blow a $4,000 refund check because it’s immediately available, but students often forget that that money will end up coming out of their pockets later.”

Professor named finalist for voice prize

Alissa Rose, associate professor of Voice at Mansfield University, has been named a finalist for The American Prize for Women in Art Song & Oratorio, 2017-18: The Friedrich & Virginia Schorr Memorial Award.

The American Prize is a series of non-profit national competitions in the performing arts unique in scope and structure, providing cash awards, professional adjudication and regional, national and international recognition.

Each year, the best recorded performances by individual artists and ensembles in the U.S. at the professional, community/ amateur, college, university, church and school levels are honored. Winners will be announced later this spring.

All but one of the songs used for Rose’s nomination were recorded in concerts here at MU. To see her performances, go to wp.alissarose.net/recordings-for-the-american-prize

Peggy Detwiler, director of Choral Activities at Mansfield, was selected as an Honored Artist of The American Prize in 2016.

The MU Concert Choir won The American Prize in 2011 and was also a finalist in 2015.
Men and women’s basketball teams play the Huskies

BY CASEY BLAIR
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

A rainy Wednesday ended with a night of basketball games.

The men and women’s basketball teams played the Bloomsburg Huskies in Decker Gymnasium. As the final home game of the season, Mountie players aimed to leave it all on the court one last time.

The first game started at 5:30 p.m. with the women’s basketball game. The Mounties began aggressively, but the game soon turned into a back and forth game between the two teams. During the second half Bloomsburg increased their shooting percentage by fifteen percent, which allowed the Huskies to pull away with the win. Some high point shooters were: Alyssa Mullins, eleven points; Mary Kate Rumbaugh, seven points; Paige Whitfield, seven points; Melanie Taylor, three points and five assists. The final score of the game was 44-62.

The men’s game began at 7:30 p.m. The Mounties played a tough first half and gained a twenty point lead by half time. In the second half the Huskies were able to reverse the deficit, and ended up winning 73-74. The Huskies scored a large number of points towards the end of the game which left the Mounties no time to counter them. High scorers include: Malik Carter, twenty-two points; Matt Tamanosky, fifteen points; Tyler Moff, nine points; Jeremiah Worthem, nineteen points and ten rebounds.

A special ceremony honoring Owen Lukens, this year’s recipient of the Steve McCloskey Service Award, was also held. The award is given in honor of Steve McCloskey, who retired last spring after being the Sports Information Director for many years. The recipient must possess the Mansfield University spirit, and have been active in the community by raising awareness for individuals with disabilities. In the fall Lukens was on the Dean’s list, and will be graduating with a degree in communications.

The men and women’s basketball team travelled to Cheyney for their next game and still have several more games scheduled to play.

Students get personal best times at track and field championships

Kenzie Jones hit a pair of personal bests to lead Mansfield track & field on the second day of the PSAC Indoor Track & Field Championships hosted by Edinboro.

Jones made the podium in both of her events, finishing fourth in the mile at 5:09.97 and seventh in the 3,000m at 10:14.36. The senior was seeded fifth in the mile and 11th in the 3,000m before today’s races.

Quincy Amabile landed in the top ten with a personal best in the men’s mile on day two of competition. Amabile’s mark of 4:27.51 was .27 off of his previous record time and good for ninth place overall.

Chris Carlsen leaped to 11th place in the men’s triple jump at a distance of 12.68m.

Shippensburg swept the team championships winning both the men’s and women’s titles.

Coming up in Mountaineer Sports

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<td>9 -Softball Mountaineers vs. Queens University of Charlotte 12:30pm (ET) Cary, NC</td>
<td>10 -Men’s and Women’s Track and Field Mountaineers vs. Coastal Carolina Invitational All day (ET) Conway, SC</td>
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