Chemistry professor teaches FBI agents about blood spatter

Mark Thompson, instructor in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics and Criminal Justice Administration at Mansfield University, provided training to 16 members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Evidence Response Team (ERT) in Buffalo, NY on March 16. Thompson's training focused on the recognition, interpretation, and documentation of blood spatter evidence. The ERT is the primary crime scene response unit for the FBI.

Thompson is a retired Special Agent of the FBI and served for 17 years as a member of the ERT.

To learn more about studying Chemistry and Physics at MU, go to mansfield.edu/chemistry-physics/

To learn more about studying Criminal Justice Administration, go to cja.mansfield.edu
**Weekly Weather**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Weather Conditions</th>
<th>High Temp</th>
<th>Low Temp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Showers</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Showers</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information taken from www.weather.com

Weather icons from Dotvoid

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**Police Beat**

- Anyone with information on any of these events is encouraged to contact the Mansfield University Police at 570-439-4900.

- 2/14/18 - At approximately 2:02pm, the station received a complaint of marijuana found in Spruce room 143. The room belonged to former student Shalique Hearn and residence life was in the process of cleaning the room. When the marijuana was found, Shalique was charged with misdemeanor possession of a small amount of marijuana and judicially referred.

- 2/22/18 - A person or persons took a red metal sign from Shaute Baseball Field between 2/10/2018 and 2/22/2018. The sign is red in color and the words "Shaute Field" are printed on it. Anyone with information is asked to contact University Police at 662-4900.

- 2/28/18 - At 9:10 pm, MU Police responded to a report of a Drug Law Violation. Upon arrival it was found that Essence Gordon and Tamarah Duncan-Washington had been smoking marijuana in their dorm room. Both parties were referred to Residence Life.

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**World News**

Headlines from across the planet

Blurs courtesy of bbc.com

- 3/21/18 - Facebook's Zuckerberg admits mistakes over Cambridge Analytica
  - Millions of users had their data exploited by a political consultancy.
  - Mark Zuckerberg stated that a "breach of trust" occurred.
  - Mark Zuckerberg vows to restore confidence in Facebook and pledges to conduct an audit into apps that appear suspicious.

- 3/21/18 - Africa agrees deal for Continental Free Trade Area
  - 44 of 54 countries signed a deal to create one of the world's largest free trade blocs.
  - The free trade deal is intended to increase prosperity for the continent.
  - Trade deal aims to remove barriers such as tariffs and import quotas allowing for a free flow of goods throughout Africa.
  - Trade deal also seeks to increase trade between African countries which only accounts for 10% of the continent's total trade.
  - Africa's country with the largest economy, Nigeria has not signed the trade deal.

- 3/21/18 - Trump set to announce China sanctions after IP probe
  - Trump announced sanctions against China after his administration determined that China is encouraging the theft of intellectual property.
  - The White House said that this is the result after years of talks failed to produce any change.
  - The US is reported to be considering between thirty billion and sixty billion dollars in tariffs as well as measures to restrict investments.
  - The US may bring complaints to the World Trade Organisation.
  - America's top trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer said that "protecting intellectual property is critical to the US economy".

- 3/20/18 - Syria war: Dozens killed as rockets hit Damascus market
  - At least 35 civilians have been killed in a market in a government-held district in Damascus.
  - Police stated that the rocket came from besieged rebels in the Eastern Ghouta region.
  - Rebels have increased artillery attacks since pro-government forces launched a major air and ground assault a month ago.
  - Intense bombardment by the Syrian Military left 1,400 dead and led 50,000 others to flee the region.
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University offers exam to undergraduate students

BY NATALIA COLES
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Mansfield University will be offering the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 8:15 a.m.

Students who wish to take the exam on this date must be registered before March 13, 2018. While there is an online version of the test, the university offers a paper-based version. These examinations are available to students who are approaching the end of their undergraduate career. The GREs are a requirement for many universities when students wish to enter the Master's program. Registration for the GREs must be done a month and one day in advance. For registration students must go to ETS.org (Educational Testing Service), click on GRE, and follow the prompts. While on the website, students may also be able to find a study guide to help them practice for their exam.

Mansfield University offers the exams as a convenience to their students, and others in the surrounding area, whom would have to travel approximately two hours to take the test in another location. However, only about a half dozen students take advantage of the exam. While it is not clear how many Master's programs require their students to have completed the exam, the exam does cover a variety of subjects: Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Literature in English, Mathematics, Psychology, and Physics.

For students who decide to complete the GRE, there is an overview of what each subject's exam will cover. There is also a practice book students are able to download at the bottom of the overview. Students are allowed to take the exam multiple times if they are unhappy with their original score. Also, students are provided with three test scores, allowing them to choose which scores to send in. A complete list of schools that require the GRE is available on ETS.org, under the GRE tab, underneath "about the test".

Peer education program begins this semester

BY TE’WUAN THORNE
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Mansfield University began a peer education training program this semester.

In January, the following students were selected through the work-study program to become certified peer educators. Te’wan Thorne (Senior - Psychology), Catherine Tarmac (Sophomore - Bio-forensics), Micha Maxton (Sophomore - Accounting), Emily Lukins (Sophomore - Nursing). The students participated in a 12-hour training session at Bloomsburg University. There they learned various skills in Listening skills, Communications, Program development, Branding and marketing, Brainstorming and idea sharing, Bystander intervention skills, Ethics and decision making and Team building.

In the beginning of the Spring semester I was notified by Bloomsburg [University] about their drug and alcohol peer educator training,” Education Community Conduct Officer Mrs. Mary-Beth Kollar said. “Students who participated in that training would have received official NASPA certification as a peer educator.”

Additional students who have joined the group since then are Jarred Kowalski (Freshmen - Social Work) and Emerald Hamilton (Sophomore - Psychology). Their purpose is to educate and be a resource for their fellow students at Mansfield. Some programs will be held in Lower Manser and Alumni Hall. These programs will focus on the use of various drugs and alcohol, as well as other subjects pertaining specifically to student’s lives.

Mansfield University will celebrate alumni weekend over the summer

Alumni will return to Mansfield University on June 7-10 to renew acquaintances, make new friends, and take part in a wide variety of activities during Alumni Weekend 2018.

“Alumni Weekend at MU has historically been a well-attended gathering of alumni, family, and friends,” Director of Alumni Relations Casey Wood ’02 said. “Growing and enhancing traditional program favorites, while integrating new choices, was our goal for 2018.”

The Delta Zeta alumni group will host the Alumni Weekend 2018 Welcome on Thursday, June 7, at the Water Tower. The outdoor welcome event is open to all alumni and pre-registration is required. This year, the class of 1968, celebrating its 50th anniversary, and the 2018 Society of Honors recipients will be recognized during a special alumni luncheon.

Linda (Eter) Long ‘65 will be the featured alumni speaker. Long is an internationally recognized and award-winning author and photographer. She is the acclaimed photographer for the New York Times best-seller, The Conscious Cook. Long is recognized in the food and medical communities for her lectures on vegan nutrition and her interviews with top doctors, researchers, and famous vegans. She is the author of Great Chefs Cook Vegan and Virgin Vegan: The Meatless Guide to Pleading Your Palate. Long, a vegan for 41 years, has conducted numerous lectures on vegan nutrition and launched her international award-winning books at the iconic James Beard House in New York City.

The weekend will include several no-cost/low-cost options for alumni, many of which are made possible through partnerships with fellow alumni who continue to give back to their alma mater in a variety of unique ways. The Alumni Association also supports many of the activities on this year’s schedule of events.

The new no-cost features include multiple yoga sessions, financial planning and retirement sessions, networking events, trivia, a choir alumni performance, vow renewals, a wild edible and medicinal plant identification hike (guided), a tent/dance party, career paths and college admission preparations, a healing session, an in memoriam luminaire display, health and nutrition sessions, a discussion of a possible alumni trip to Belize, an I-99 business park showing, and more.

In addition, low-cost program features include a 5K walk/run, an alumni golf tournament, a welcome dinner gathering, and a land & sea dinner social. Two local breweries, Yorkholo and Blue Stone, as well as My Brothers BBQ, will be on-site during Saturday’s tent party.

Several MU professors will facilitate sessions during the Alumni Weekend festivities as well.

“Our alumni continue to give back to this incredible institution, and it’s important that we give back to them too,” Wood said. “Incorporating new programming and no-cost options throughout alumni weekend is simply the right thing to do. Our alumni deserve a weekend designed just for them that encompasses a wide variety of activities.”

Low-cost, on-campus housing is available to alumni during Alumni Weekend.

To view the complete schedule of events and to register for Alumni Weekend 2018, go to mansfield.edu/alumni/events.

For questions concerning Alumni Weekend, contact Casey Wood, director of Alumni Relations at cmwood@mansfield.edu or (570)662-4078.

Alumni Weekend 2018 is presented by the Mansfield University Alumni Relations Office in collaboration with the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Mansfield Concert Choir to Host York County Junior Honors Choir

The Mansfield University Concert Choir, under the direction of Peggy Dettwiler, will host the York County Junior Honors Choir for a day long visit on Friday, March 23.

The day will culminate with a joint concert by the two choirs at 7 p.m. in Steadman Theatre. The concert is free and open to the public.

York County Junior Honors Choir is comprised of 100 select singers in grades seven, eight and nine from 21 public and private school districts, homeschools, churches, and voice studios of York County, PA.

Under the direction of Donna Knott, the group has been invited to perform in Heinz Chapel, the Naval Academy Chapel, New Bethel Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., American Choral Directors Eastern Division and State Conferences, and the Pennsylvania Music Educators State Conference.

The Mansfield University Concert Choir is a highly select ensemble of singers, representing some of the finest talent from the American Northeast. While the majority of the singers are undergraduate music majors, membership is open to all students at the university through an audition process.

The group has achieved a reputation of excellence, having been chosen each of the last 20 to perform at conventions or festivals around the world, most recently at the American Choral Directors Association East Region Conference in Pittsburgh.

In their latest international competition in 2017, the Choir turning in Gold Level performances at the 2017 Harmonie Festival in Limburg-Lindenholzhauen, Germany.

The Mansfield singers won first prize in the Women’s Choir category, second prize in both the Men’s and Mixed Choir categories, and third prize in Sacred Music category. In all four categories, they were rated at the coveted Gold Level, achieving more than 23 of 25 points.
Receptions to welcome prospective students

BY ZOE ESPERSETH
STAFF WRITER

Regional admissions receptions were held in five Pennsylvania cities for prospective Mansfield University students.

Regional receptions are catered towards prospective students who may not have the opportunity to visit Mansfield University before making their college decisions. This year’s receptions took place in Harrisburg, Lewisburg, Williamsport, Philadelphia and Mansfield University. The four cities were chosen due to the large number of applications from these areas.

“These receptions provide a thorough financial aid presentation, an admissions presentation, and an opportunity for prospective students to ask questions to staff, alumni, and current students on anything from academics to campus life,” Ashley Ensminger, Assistant Director of Admissions, said. One of her responsibilities includes bringing the receptions to life.

“As a small school we want to show them that individualized attention they will get at MU. These events are meant to be a bit more casual, and they’re a good opportunity to really get to know the students who are interested in coming to MU,” Ensminger said. Most receptions host about 15-20 students and their families making it easier to maintain that casual feeling.

The last regional reception occurred in Philadelphia on March 13. The reception took place at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Center City building from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Guests were provided with refreshments and had the opportunity to chat with university officials in attendance.

“We want to provide all of our students with what they need to make an appropriate decision. We invite a variety of students from juniors who have simply inquired about Mansfield’s campus and programs to students who have applied, and even students who have paid a deposit and know they will be attending MU in the fall. We provide a program that can accommodate a prospective student despite where they are in the college search process,” Ensminger said.

 Relay for Life fundraising begins

BY NATALIA COLES
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

Colleges Against Cancer will host Mansfield University’s Relay for Life in Kelchner Fitness Center.

Relay for Life is an event where teams come together to walk the track. Beginning April 20 at 5 p.m. the relay ends at 5 a.m. During the 12-hour event, one member of each team remains on the track at all times to show that cancer never stops.

“It’s a great event that allows everyone to come together to support something that everyone has been touched by,” Sara Pierce, Relay for Life chair, said.

The event is open to students, faculty, community, caregivers, and survivors. Participants can sign up on the Relay for Life website for the event.

“It is $15 to sign up online ahead of time and $20 at the door”, Pierce said.

Gibson Brothers perform in Wellsboro

BY TAELOR BOWER
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

The Gibson Brothers, a New York bluegrass band, performed in the Wellsboro Coolidge Theatre, at the Deane Center for the Performing Arts.

The five-member band, which formed in 1984, took the stage at 7:30 p.m., as a part of the Wellsboro Community Concert Association’s 2017-2018 season. The group is made up of Eric Gibson (banjo and vocals), Leigh Gibson (guitar and vocals), Eric Barber (bass), Clayton Campbell (fiddle), and Jesse Brock (mandolin).

The Gibson Brothers have received several awards, which include the 2011 IBMA Album of the Year with “Help My Brother,” which was co-produced by Eric Barber. Clayton Campbell joined the band in 2004 and was able to record two tracks on the album “Red Letter Day.” The newest member to the band is Jesse Brock, who has only been with the band about four years. They have also been awarded International Bluegrass Association’s Entertainer, Song, Songwriter, and Album of the Year.

The next performance held in the Coolidge Theatre is The April Verch Band, on April 7. This group was started by April Verch; a fiddler/singer/stepdancer, and for more than two decades has captivated audiences worldwide with the mix of talent.

To find other performances, you can contact the Deane Center of Performing Arts by email at wellsborocca.org or by phone at 570-724-6220.

History major presents paper at regional conference

Mansfield University History major Victoria Royal presented her paper, “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Drunkenness: An Examination of Alcohol in Early America,” at the Phi Alpha Theta Western Regional Conference hosted by Grove City College on March 10.

Also at the conference, Professor Karen Guenther, faculty advisor for the Alpha-Iota-Beta Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at MU, chaired a session on “Managing the Environment.”

To learn more about studying History at Mansfield, go to mansfield.edu/history/
The Mansfield University Council of Trustees honored Mackenzie Hafer at her last meeting as Student Trustee on Wednesday, March 21. Hafer is completing her two-year term and will graduate with a degree in Business Administration: Accounting in May. Bobbi Kilmer, chairperson of the Council of Trustees, thanked Hafer for her outstanding service and dedication to the University and for representing the student’s interests on the Council.

Hafer is the daughter of Duane and Laurie Hafer, both Mansfield graduates, of Athens, PA. Her three older sisters; Mallory, Morgan and Meredith, all graduated from MU as well. Her replacement on the Council of Trustees has been nominated. All Trustees must be appointed by the Governor and approved by the Pennsylvania State Senate.

MU Nursing Program Ranked by National Organization

The Mansfield University Nursing program has received high grades from RegisteredNursing.org in the organizations rankings of Pennsylvania programs. MU is ranked third among schools in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education and 19th overall in the Commonwealth for 2018.

Nursing programs were assessed on several factors which represent how well a program supports students towards licensure and beyond. Past and present first time NCLEX-RN “pass-rates” were analyzed and weighted by year. To learn more, go to registerednursing.org/state/pennsylvania/#rankings

For more information on the Mansfield Nursing program, go to mansfield.edu/nursing/

A new era in law enforcement training began with the ceremonial cutting of a ribbon to dedicate the Mansfield University Municipal Police Academy and Regional Training Center on Monday, March 5.

University officials, representatives from area law enforcement agencies and political officials then toured the new facility, which is located on the upper floor of Doane Center on the MU Campus.

The new Academy includes state-of-art classroom space, a physical training room and additional amenities to allow cadets and instructors an enhanced environment for their education and training.

“This new facility illustrates Mansfield University’s ongoing commitment to prepare future generations of municipal police officers who will serve communities in our area and beyond,” Mansfield University Interim President Scott Barton said. “In addition, our facility will now serve as an important training site for our regional law enforcement agencies. We are proud to serve both of those roles for the Commonwealth.”

Barton thanked the many members of the Mansfield University team and community leaders for their dedication and commitment towards making this project a reality.

“Our goal is to have an Academy that is considered the finest in the Commonwealth,” Scott Henry, director of MU Police Services and the Municipal Police Academy, said. “This new facility is a major step toward that goal. Also, being able to offer a training site for area law enforcement agencies will enhance their ability to protect our communities.”

“Mansfield University is re-establishing ourselves in the community and we intend to have our words meet our actions,” Barton added.

The Act 120 Academy Training Program at the Academy is a required 919-hour course to obtain certification to be a municipal police officer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It includes training in laws and procedures, motor vehicle law and collision investigation, criminal investigation, crisis management, emergency vehicle operations, physical training, first aid and CPR, defensive tactics and firearms. MU has been home to the Municipal Police Academy since 1978.

To learn more about the Mansfield University Municipal Police Academy and Regional Training Center, go to mansfield.edu/police-academy
Mansfield University Interim President Scott Barton signed new 1+2+1 dual degree partnership agreements with three major universities in China; Huaqiao University, Shandong University, and Southwest Petroleum University on Thursday, March 1.

MU has been a member of the Sino-American CHEPD 1+2+1 Program since 2007. This program, which is jointly administered by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the China Center for International Educational Exchange (CCIEE), enables Chinese students to complete their first year at their Chinese university, their next two years at MU, and their final year at their home institution. Upon successful completion of the program, students earn degrees from both institutions.

The new agreements will help facilitate student and faculty exchange programs between MU and Chinese partner universities for many years to come.

“We value our partnerships with these three prestigious universities and being able to continue welcoming their students, enriches our campus life and culture here at Mansfield,” Barton said. “I truly appreciate the efforts of Dr. Brad Lint, our US-China exchange coordinator, and Provost John Ulrich in facilitating these agreements.”

Lint is also an assistant professor of English at Mansfield.

Below are profiles of Huaqiao University, Shandong University, and Southwest Petroleum University.

Huaqiao University (HQU)
Established: 1960
Location: Quanzhou, Fujian Province, with a new campus in Xiamen in 2006
President: Jia Yimin
Students: 60,000
Faculty: 1,700

Huaqiao University was established to educate Chinese who were born and raised abroad (a quarter of its 160,000 alumni hail from overseas). The university is particularly well known for its programs in Chinese language and culture, mechanical and civil engineering, architecture, material science, and pharmacy. The university supports 90 research institutes and has been recognized with a National Science and Technology Development award from the central government.

Several HQU programs, including international business management, software engineering, and international economics and trade are taught in English. Divided into 19 colleges, HQU offers 52 undergraduate programs, 64 master’s programs, and 9 doctoral programs.

Shandong University (SDU)
Established: 1901, the second national university in China after Imperial University of Peking
Location: Jinan, Shandong Province
President: Fan Liming
Students: 32,000
Faculty: 1,600

Shandong University is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious universities in China. It offers degrees in 12 general disciplines. It has 41 research centers, 14 affiliated hospitals, 175 laboratories. Its library holds more than 4.5 million volumes. The college’s charter was drafted by Yuan Shikai in 1916, and former faculty include famous writers Lao She, Shen Congwen, and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2012, Mo Yan. SDU partners with 70 universities in 50 countries, and the university has over 1500 international students.

SDU maintains a joint urban research center with the University of Cincinnati and a lab partnership with Virginia Tech. Divided into 31 schools, SDU offers 104 undergraduate programs, 209 master’s programs, and 127 doctoral programs.

Southwest Petroleum University (SWPU)
Established: 1958
Location: Nanchong, Sichuan Province, with a second campus established in Chengdu
President: Zhao Jinzhou
Students: 32,000
Faculty: 1,600

Southwest Petroleum University is divided into 16 schools covering eight major disciplines: science, engineering, management, economics, arts, law, and education. The university maintains 25 research centers as well as seven laboratories. Its national level key disciplines include oil and gas exploitation engineering, oil and gas drilling engineering, and oil and gas storage and transportation engineering.

SWPU has been awarded the grand prize and first prize in “National Science and Technology Progress” as well as the second prize in “National Science and Technology Progress and Invention.” Divided into 18 schools, SWPU offers 65 undergraduate programs, 85 master’s programs, and 23 doctoral programs.
Border patrol holds recruitment event on campus

BY PARRISH BRIDGES
FLASHLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR

The United States Customs and Border Protection Agency visited Mansfield University to let students know about future career opportunities.

The event was presented by federal agent, Merlo, and was hosted by the Criminal Justice department. The presentation lasted for about an hour. Of the 50-60 students in attendance, the majority were Criminal Justice Administration majors or minors. To begin his presentation, Agent Merlo explained the salary and benefits of being an agent. As a Customs Border Patrol Officer, the beginning salary is roughly $39,000 a year and after each year, the salary increases. Merlo emphasized how someone can make upwards of six figures a year as a Border Patrol Officer in less than five years and that is without including overtime pay and locality pay. Additionally, thanks to its hierarchal system, one can “move up the ladder” so to speak relatively quickly. Moreover, it is a great career for people interested in federal law enforcement.

Along with his presentation, he mentioned the mission statement of the agency and their core values: Vigilance, Integrity, and Service. Their mission is to “Safeguard America's borders (land, air, and sea) thereby protecting the public from dangerous people and materials while enhancing the nation’s global economic competitiveness by enabling legitimate trade and travel”. Agent Merlo also discussed the agency today and where it is headed. The agency currently employs about sixty-thousand border patrol agents and more are still needed.

“I am very interested in this agency and before the presentation even started today, I was already looking into the application process on my laptop,” Cameron Lewis, a Criminal Justice major, said. This further explains why agent Merlo was on campus today. To get students like Cameron to apply to their agency. The main goal of the event was to gain young college students interest, recruit them into applying and have them potentially become the future of the agency.

As the presentation came to an end, he gave us real-life scenarios of what a “typical day” looks like as a Border Patrol agent and their duties. For example, he presented the class with a scenario where two young women were trying to cross the United States border from Canada. They explained to Border Patrol Officers that they were coming back from a shopping trip to Canada and were on their way home. As the situation unfolded, the officers felt they had reasonable suspicion to search the vehicle. As a result, they found one of the girls’ boyfriend in the back of the vehicle, hidden in the luggage. They were charged with alien smuggling and attempting to bring an illegal immigrant into the United States. Along with this situation, some of the other duties of a Border Patrol Officer may include: detect and prevent terrorist weapons from entering the United States, enforce customs, immigration, and agricultural laws and regulations at U.S. ports of entry and preclearance locations worldwide, and prevent the illegal trafficking of people, narcotics, and contraband into the United States. He then went on to mention how this law enforcement agency is different than any other agency because they “have the right to search anything, even without a warrant”.

Before taking questions at the end, Agent Merlo briefly explained the hiring process and training. The hiring process involves a variety of steps such as: eligibility determination, applying, take the Border Patrol Entrance Exam, a qualifications review, a background investigation, a medical exam, a fitness test, a structured interview, a polygraph exam, and finally, a drug test. The training is a rigorous 19-week program that takes place in Glynco, GA.

The four main subjects taught are anti-terrorism, firearms training, arrest techniques, and passenger processing.

Editorial: Gun Control reform

BY EMMA LYNCH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When I was five years old my grandfather took me to a family friend's property way out in the country and taught me how to shoot a gun. Before I was allowed to even touch the gun I had to know every single safety rule by heart and follow every single instruction given to me immediately. After that I sat on his lap and he held the gun (I was too small to) and he taught me how to aim. I missed most of the soda cans we had lined up but I never forgot the lessons he taught me that day, or throughout my life when he took me to the shooting range for practice.

In mid-February a school shooter went on a rampage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. In response to the shooting students all over the country walked out of their classes, and out of their schools on Wednesday, March 14, to protest the lack of gun law reform. My eleven-year-old cousin was one student who walked out and my uncle posted about it on Facebook with pride. While I was also proud of my cousin, I began pondering the debate over gun law reforms.

One of the favored arguments I keep hearing from those who object to reform is that the second amendment gives citizens the right to keep and bear arms and by reforming the laws our guns are going to be taken away. We do have that right, but look at it in context; that was written over 200 years ago when the U.S. was trying to gain its independence from England. We’re no longer facing a “tyrannical government” (depending on your political views). At the very least, not in the same way as it was 200 years ago. The population is denser, access to firearms is greater. There are many things that are different between now and then, and laws frequently have to change with the time.

I don’t advocate a general ban on firearms, but I don’t think ordinary citizens should have more firepower than the police or military. There is no reason for anyone who is not military to have automatic, semi-automatic, or extended magazine firearms. They are not protecting the country from threats. You want a twelve gauge to threaten a potential intruder with? Okay. You want a .22 caliber rifle to go hunting with. Great. I don’t have a problem with that.

What really needs to change is how guns are treated. Before anyone legally drives a car they must learn how and take an exam to get a license. Not every state requires a license to own a gun, and some states allow open carry without a permit. Like Pennsylvania. In our state the only time you need a license is if you want to carry a concealed weapon or carry one in a motor vehicle. Let’s change that. Everyone should be required to register their weapon. If there was a database of all registered weapons that included all the ballistics of it, multiple weapons could be immediately ruled out. Less time for the police to find the perpetrator (hopefully) and less hassle for those who own a gun because it won’t have to be tested by hand every time.

There should also be continuing education. Not just on firearms themselves but also on mental health. It seems like every time there is a school shooting the shooter’s mental health is to blame. A greater understanding of both can lead to better interpersonal relationships which can help lower the likelihood of school shootings. Also, continued education can create a deeper sense of respect and care for those who own firearms.

Understandably there are some slight issues with this. Criminals should not be allowed to legally own weapons but they are criminals. Breaking a gun law probably won’t bother them too much so they can just by their weapon on the black market – which is exactly why there should not be a gun ban and there should be a registry. Other issues involve how to classify acts of gun violence and who else should and should not be able to own a gun. This plan isn’t perfect but it could be the start to a new relationship with one of our most prevalent methods of protection in this country.

Either way we look at it, something needs to be done to at least try and prevent the loss of more life.
Baseball takes two from Lincoln in home opener

Mansfield took the opener 4-2 before cruising to a 16-2 win in the nightcap to sweep Lincoln (Pa.) Sunday afternoon in non-conference play at Shaute Field.

Starting pitcher Billy Gregory danced with perfection in game two before the historic feat was spoiled by Lincoln in the sixth inning.

In game one, Lincoln (0-9, 0-0 CIAA) scored a pair of runs in the second, but an Owen Lukens RBI single into left center in the bottom of the inning scored Brady Mengel to halve the deficit. In the fourth inning, J.P. Bonanca drove in Dio Infante in the bottom of the inning to score Brady Mengel to halve the deficit. In the fourth inning, J.P. Bonanca drove in Dio Infante to give Mansfield a 3-2 advantage.

In the sixth inning.

It was all Mansfield in game two as Mengel and Infante drew a walk and a hit by pitch respectively with bases loaded to force in runs in the bottom of the first inning.

The Mountaineers hung eight runs in the second to jump out to a 10-0 advantage. Scheerer and Camren Ney drove in Infante, Espinosa, Zuraski, and Bonanca continued the attack with RBIs in the inning.

In the third, Lukens drove in a run before Guidos scored from third to extend the lead to 12-0. Lukens and Colin Treaster each plated a pair of runs with two RBI hits to push the lead to 16-0.

The Lions got on the board with two runs in the sixth.

Mansfield starting pitcher Billy Gregory worked a perfect game into the sixth inning. The junior allowed just four hits in 6.0 innings of work with seven strikeouts and no walks allowed.

Mansfield opens PSAC East play on Friday at East Stroudsburg.

Watkins Hits NCAA Provisional Mark in Javelin Throw at Shamrock Invitational

Hunter Watkins hit his second consecutive NCAA provisional mark in the javelin throw to highlight Mansfield track & field at the Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational on Friday.

Watkins took fourth in the javelin with his best attempt of 58.50 meters after hitting 63.78m at the Coastal Carolina Invitational last weekend.

Janelle Peachy also finished fourth in a field of 17 runners in the women's mile race. The junior finished with a mark of 5:49.76, just four seconds behind her personal best of 5:45.35. Freshman Tyler Olrogg finished the men's equivalent with a time of 5:04.43 good for 14th.

Bryce Steiner finished eighth in the 200m with a personal best of 23.87. Carlsen finished .04 of a second behind him for his collegiate best, beating himself by just under a second.

Charlsie Bowen leaped to fifth in the women's pole vault with a conference height of 3.65m before bowing out at 3.80m.

Each runner in the men's 800m set records for themselves as Ben Drexler finished his first 800m with a mark of 2:02.66 to finish 14th in a field of 36 athletes. Dylan Rhodes was the next Mountie to cross the line at 2:04.75 for 20th, beating his personal best by six seconds. Sophomore Jordan Cash-Rawleigh punched in at 2:14.17 for 31st hitting a personal best by less than a second. Wilson Preston completed Mansfield's runners in 33rd for a personal best 2:18.36.

Marcus Frazier placed 20th in the 400m race with his time of 58:26.

The Mountaineers will complete in the Fred Hardy Invitational on Saturday, Mar. 25 in Richmond, VA.

Coming up in Mountaineer Sports

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