

Thorne Performance Hall Travels Back in Time

By: Abby Almodovar

Bright lights flood the stage over a scene set in turn-of-the-century America, as a family dressed in vintage fashion presents shocking dialogue and hilarious antics for the viewers below. The scene came from a rehearsal for Mount Vernon Nazarene University's spring production of *Meet Me in St. Louis*. This production will take the stage in front of a live audience on March 22 through 24.

Director Zac Sherman, who oversees these practices, explained that he chose this play because of the fun period setting, in 1904 at the World's Fair. This particular production also works well with the mostly female pool of actors who auditioned this year.

When asked for his thoughts about the cast, Sherman reflected, "They're silly, but also pretty dedicated. I think one of my favorite parts about working with the cast is the unexpected ways they make me laugh during rehearsal." *Meet Me in St. Louis* marks Sherman's fifth show at MVNU as director, and he enjoys creating an atmosphere that makes students want to keep returning.

One of the lead cast members, Destiny Fullerton, remarked, "I was super excited when the cast list was posted. I think the dynamic of the cast is amazing, and all of the 'family members' meld well together. We're all friends outside of the play as well, so it makes it that much easier to pretend to be sisters and friends in the show." It is this friendship dynamic, along with putting on a great production, that makes theater worth participating in.

For those interested in joining drama at MVNU, Fullerton encouraged, "Everyone says that you should just go for it; and honestly that's true. It's a really good experience, even if you don't set out to be the lead. Just being in the atmosphere is really helpful for your confidence and to find new friends who enjoy the same things you do."



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"What is the name of the building that MVNU's Art and Design Department is housed in?"



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MVNU Theater Presents...

"Meet Me in St. Louis"

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— Destiny Fullerton

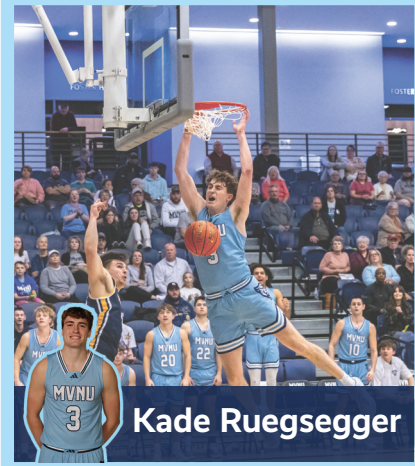
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Photos by Abby Almodovar



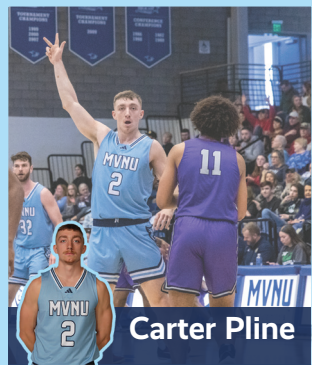
JeJustin Solis



Kade Ruegsegger



Jack Kahoun



Carter Pline



Bailey Conrad

Senior Spotlight: Men's Basketball

By: Dylan Elliott

Basketball season has ended for five MVNU Men's Basketball team seniors. For all five of them, basketball is something that they always looked forward to. Now, the sport that they've played since they were little is over forever.

Seniors Bailey Conrad, Jack Kahoun, Kade Ruegsegger, JeJustin Solis and Carter Pline were recently honored for their contributions to the program. Each one of them has left an impact on the team throughout their careers.

Jack Kahoun, a senior from Oswego, Illinois transferred in from Trinity International after the school shut down. The senior played in 24 games and averaged 1.6 ppg. He is also majoring in Criminal Justice and hopes to become a police officer. Kahoun talked about why he chose to come to MVNU, "I came to MVNU because Trinity International shut down," said Kahoun. "I went back into getting recruited and Coach Ronai reached out to me and we went from there."

Kahoun also talked about what their mantra Rule Cougar stands for. "The Rule Cougar stands for who we are going to become," mentioned Kahoun. "We are constantly becoming better people. It means a lot to me. It's my first year in the program and just learning about relentless effort, having great body language every single day, and it is great just to be reminded of that every single day!"

Kahoun also shared his favorite memories that he has made here at MVNU. "There have been so many memories that I have made with this team," said Kahoun. "My favorite one is probably the barnstorming trip. We were consistently together for a couple of days. We did a lot of fun things and we got to know each other."

Bailey Conrad, a senior from Corydon, Indiana transferred to MVNU from Citadel College. Conrad played in 28 games and averaged 11 ppg. He is majoring in Business Management and is also coming back for another year, despite being honored on senior night. Conrad talked about why he chose to come to MVNU. "I had been at Western Kentucky for two years and then I transferred to The Citadel for a year," Conrad mentioned. "Things just really didn't work out there because they brought in a brand-new coach. I entered back into the portal and Coach Ronai, who had recruited me in high school, reached out and all of the programs worked out perfectly for me."

Conrad mentioned why he chose to major in Business Management. "My dad has a business," said Conrad. "Me and my wife Hannah have always wanted to start our own business."

Conrad also mentioned why he chose to play for Coach Ronai. "I have had a lot of coaches," said Conrad. "I have had four coaches in three years. With Coach Ronai, I can tell the difference between other programs and this program. Every program is different, but I see a big difference in the way we treat it more like a family."

Even though their careers are over, the memories that they have made playing basketball will last a lifetime!

Photos by Cassidy Gamble



Meet MVNU's New Intramural Director: Nate Sharpes!

By: Mike Basko

Nate Sharpes has taken on the role of Intramural Director here at MVNU. The junior has participated in running intramural sports since his freshman year and decided to take the next step this year by leading the program. As Intramural Director, Sharpes takes care of scheduling the sports season, setting up and tearing down events, planning out each semester and working as a middleman between the students participating and Johnny Mohnasky, the Head of Intramurals.

Sharpes was inspired to take on the role by both Mohnasky and former Intramural Director at MVNU Josh Houston. He said, "I went to church and youth group with those guys, so I've known them for quite a while. I saw them in those roles and I kind of look up to them, so I thought it'd be a cool way for me to get involved on campus." Their leadership inspired Sharpes to take over the role with excitement to keep intramurals running strong.

Sharpes also wants to use intramurals as a way to keep students engaged on campus over the weekend. He recently organized a dodgeball tournament over the weekend of Feb. 3. He said, "I'd like to start doing more [weekend events] because I feel like a lot of people go home because there's not a lot to do on campus. I feel like if we have more of these events on weekends more people will stay and be more involved over weekends." Sharpes says that he is looking to continue to grow intramurals in both numbers and events so that it can continue to be a fun opportunity for students to have fun throughout the semester.

Students can sign up for intramural sports using the IM Leagues App, which will also give students information about upcoming intramural events!

MVNU Senior Shines at Knox County Symphony Winter Concert

By: Morgan Mills

On Feb. 10 2024, Megan Vollrath performed in the Knox County Symphony Winter Concert at Rosse Hall on the Kenyon College campus with her rendition of Quella Fiamma Che M'accende by Benedetto Marcello and Voi, Che Sapete by Mozart.

Vollrath, a senior at Mount Vernon Nazarene University studying Exercise Science, shares a background both in music and athletics. She's a passionate mezzo-soprano regarding music and speaks of her many years in choirs, plays and worship teams fondly. Vollrath participated in voice lessons for 15 years, competitive dance for 12 years, piano lessons for five years, competing show choir for six years and led worship for church for nine years. On campus Vollrath takes part in the Collegians Chorale, private voice lessons for three years and a member of the Goliards Chamber Choir for a year.

The Knox County Symphony Winter Concert offers young musician's new opportunities to showcase their passion for music while giving them a chance to perform with other musicians. Vollrath expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to display her devotion for music. She auditioned in September for this slot and took part in weekly rehearsals to prepare for her performance. The concert also featured the winners of the annual Young Musicians Competition.

Vollrath's loved ones encouraged her to continue her devotion to music, "I want to thank my various musical teachers and instructors throughout the years for instilling a love for music in me. I'd also like to thank my family and friends for continually supporting and encouraging me in everything I do."

While Vollrath participates in multiple different activities both on and off campus, music continues to be a driving force in both her faith and personal life. Vollrath will continue studying music with Carrie Vail to strengthen her talents.

