

Eenie Meanie Miney... MVNU!

By Brookabella, Staff Writer

Class is back in session at MVNU, but this time around, with loads more freshman students who chose MVNU as their home away from home and who are excited for the gleaming opportunities college provides. While starting a new life in a different community with an unfamiliar set of people can be intimidating, many freshmen are finding MVNU's campus a welcoming environment that gives Christ-centered experiences that affirm their choice to go to MVNU.

Freshman Max Walker spent the last part of his summer on campus— practicing for this year's soccer season and getting to know some of the other players on his team. "We're praying before practice and praying after practices, which I really appreciate," said Walker of his time so far. "We also just got a new coach this year, and he's really big on likening faith and soccer together in unity...That's one of the reasons why I wanted to come to MVNU."

Being able to connect with other students is an important part of growing campus community, and freshmen Maddie Copley and Bailey Thayer had a positive experience during the first two weeks of school. "Originally, I was going to go

to BG, but the atmosphere is a lot different there. I wanted more of a Christian campus full of people with the same mindset as me," said Copley.

Having a staff that adequately supports their students is another important factor when choosing the right college, and especially for Wesley Heintzelman, a freshman at MVNU. Heintzelman said, "I always wanted to go to a Christian college. I liked all the professors because I did a year online already, and they were all really lovely... some professors have been super helpful with everything, and it's pretty cool to have that."

While the semester is now well underway and students are settling into their new rhythms of life, freshman Asher Garman wanted to encourage people looking for a college to consider MVNU as their next step— "MVNU isn't right for everyone. If it was, then everyone would be here. However, I think that if you want to truly dive in, if you want to deeply grow in your faith and if you really want a good college experience, MVNU is the place for you."

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Making the Leap: Freshmen Dive Into Life at MVNU

Also in this Issue:
Men's Soccer Feature
What's The Scoop

A Global Game: MVNU Men’s Soccer Welcomes 18 Nations and New Coach

By Naomi Kinne, Staff Writer

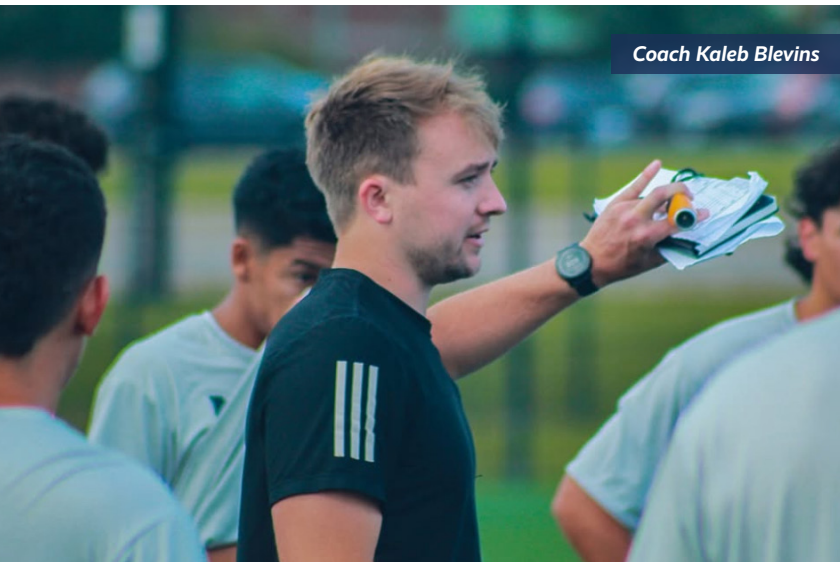
The MVNU men’s soccer team enters the new season with many fresh faces, including a new head coach and a variety of international athletes. Of the 52 players, 25 traveled from 18 different countries outside of the U.S.

Before MVNU, coach Kaleb Blevins started coaching at 14 and has since coached for club and college teams. He played college soccer at Ohio Christian University. At MVNU, he appreciates the Christian environment as well as the high-level soccer, saying, “It’s a very tight knit community feel here. I think that the guys definitely have a brotherhood between the players. The community aspect of all of it is really unique.” Blevins has seen the team’s diversity as a blessing and is excited to lead the Cougars this season.

One of Blevins’ recent recruits was Elkana Maier. Just four weeks ago, Maier traveled over 4,000 miles from Germany to MVNU. He gave up having no speed limits in Germany to study business and be a midfielder for the Cougars. Maier was drawn to MVNU because of coaches’ openness and kindness. “I wanted to go to college to play soccer. The



Elkana Maier



Coach Kaleb Blevins

coach talked to me and was really open. He saw me as a player and was really kind,” he explained. Maier has a goal of leading the Cougars to the playoffs and a national title. Off the field, Maier feels very welcomed at MVNU and loves how friendly and genuine everyone is.

This is Maier’s first time in America, but Matias Del Solar has lived in America for the past two years. Originally from Peru, Del Solar transferred to MVNU from a community college in Texas.

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Del Solar loves his home country, especially its food. “My favorite food there is ceviche, and we are number one in the world for gastronomy,” he said. He loves Peru—but also enjoys life in America. Like Maier, Del Solar was drawn to MVNU by the team and coach. He believes that the team has skilled players and is eager to win the conference championship.

The Cougars are off to a strong start under Blevins, with a record of 4-1-2. Fans can catch them in action at CH4 Stadium against Goshen on Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.



Matias Del Solar

What’s the Scoop?

Ice Cream, Real Talk and a Safe Space for Students

By Alessia Dugan, Staff Writer

Free ice cream and tough conversations might sound like an odd pairing, but that’s exactly the idea behind “What’s the Scoop,” a new monthly event on campus. Students who attend get the chance to grab a scoop of ice cream and sit down for conversations that are important, but often avoided.

This month’s scoop: suicide awareness. With residence life and the counseling team working side-by-side, the event gave students both sweet treats and serious resources to help support mental health.

“We want students to know that it’s OK to talk about this and it’s OK to seek out help,” said Sarah Mowry, director of Residence Life and Student Accountability. “We also want to give students the resources they need to be supported.”

The event is low-pressure and student-centered. Organizers set up the night to feel safe and welcoming, and students can leave at any time. Staff are also nearby if anyone needs a moment. “Sometimes having permission to get up and walk away can be very helpful to a student struggling with a hard topic,” Mowry explained.

And the conversations don’t melt away once the sprinkles are gone. “This doesn’t just end after the hour-long event,” Mowry said. “It’s a platform for continuing relationships and ongoing support.”



Future “Scoops” will cover different topics throughout the year, and Mowry hopes students see it as an opportunity and not an obligation. “You will get what you decide to get out of your time here. Why not step into it?” Mowry asked.

Most of all, Mowry said she wants students to know they belong. “You are not alone. Everyone does not have the same story, but the feelings and emotions you bring with you are normal. Don’t feel afraid that you are the only one, because you are not. You have all of us in residence, life, student life and the counseling department. You could be the one person to show up, and we’re going to be so happy and excited to be there for you.”

A sweet new scoop is coming next month—be there!

