

THE VIEWER

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A FRESH SEASON

Embracing the Challenges, Enjoying the Journey

Knowing and Doing

**By Henry W. Spaulding II,
Ph.D.
President**

I hope you arrived on campus to learn; but even more, I hope you will decide to do something with your knowledge. Solomon writes, "Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks" (Proverbs 1:20-21). These verses are hopeful and troubling at the same time. The threatening noise surrounding us can hide the voice of wisdom. What am I to make of these verses in the Proverbs when there seems to be so little wisdom in the world?

There is certainly no shortage of opinion on the Internet. It is positively annoying! It can be overpowering. What am I to believe?

I have great sympathy for a generation of emerging adults who stand on the busiest corner or at the entrance to the city gates who do not hear the cry of wisdom. This is certainly troubling. We read, "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge" (22)? These questions haunt me. The dilemma is we do not hear because we do not listen. Why?

A few thoughts come to mind as I read this passage. Many hear but do not like

what they hear. We read, "Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof" (23-25). It is often difficult to listen to criticism, but the willingness to listen can make all the difference in the world. Gracious criticism is an art too seldom practiced. Some of my toughest teachers have often contributed the most to my education. The professors who offered respectful and gracious criticism taught me the most. Intellectual humility is a sure sign of wisdom. Oftentimes the smartest people demonstrate wisdom, but the most humble people obtain it. One of the saddest images in my mind is students/people who float in the river of wisdom and never drink of it. You probably know a few of these.

When I taught first-year students in college, the possibilities present excited me. There is so much to learn at every stage of life. The real issue becomes what you do with all you know. Recently, I listened to a debate on the existence of God between two impressive people. One was a renowned Christian apologist and the other a physicist known for his aggressive atheism. The atheist had only disdain for the theists. Both men were obviously brilliant, but neither was wise. No philosophical arguments establish the existence of God. Likewise, no scientific arguments disprove the existence of God. I believe beyond any



Dr. Henry Spaulding

doubt that God exists, that He sent His Son to die on a Cross, that Jesus rose from the dead, and that death and the power of sin have been defeated. These I take, as a matter of faith, but what really matters is the life that faith engenders. The best argument for the existence of God is the character that arises from the gospel. I take this to be the life described in Proverbs.

Solomon is quite severe in his description of those who will not listen. The passage uses words like calamity, panic and distress. One of the most poignant thoughts in this passage reads, "Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster" (31-33). Knowing must be doing in order to produce wisdom. Do not spend time telling me what you believe. Show me what you believe by the quality of life that arises from your convictions. Only such a life will allow us to live without the dread of disaster. By God's grace, may we find the life envisioned by wisdom.

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Saliva Testing a Challenge for MVNU Campus

By Hannah Barco

Spring semester at MVNU has been slightly different this year due to the now enforced saliva testing on campus. With a one-per-week minimum, all staff and students must submit a saliva test in order to do the day-to-day campus things such as going to the caf, doing laundry, going to the gyms or being in class. Athletes, nursing students and any other high-risk-of-exposure students have to submit saliva samples twice a week.

Although most people have an apprehensive attitude towards saliva testing, JoLee Carrier, MVNU's RN on campus, said, "The saliva screening has been very effective in identifying those individuals that need to follow up with a PCR test. If a saliva sample is flagged, the majority of the time the PCR (nasal swab) test will come back positive."

Dr. Geoff Fuller runs the saliva testing here at MVNU. "Since our method is considered surveillance and not a medical diagnosis, our lab doesn't need FDA approval. The procedure uses techniques that I've been using all my professional life," said Fuller when asked about the qualifications needed to have the center on campus.

Talking about protocol, Fuller stated, "The protocol is pretty simple. We add enzymes to each sample to dissolve the outer 'shell' of the virus. Then we use PCR

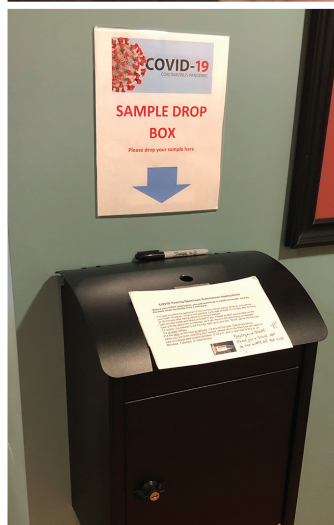


Illustration by Liz Crosby

(polymerase chain reaction) to amplify the virus' genes enough that we can detect them with our instrument." Without saliva testing, Fuller believes that MVNU would have been shut down for the semester. He added,

"At the beginning of spring term, we identified 24 people that were contagious but had no symptoms. Those people could have infected the entire campus very quickly and sent us all home."

Vice President For Student Life Tracy Waal was asked about the current COVID testing on campus. "Do we believe they're fun? No. Do we like them? No. Do we like putting on further restrictions when COVID spreads? Absolutely not! But I do think the baseline protocols implemented for the spring are reasonable and very consistent with what other colleges are doing," said Waal. "We will always look for opportunities to reduce restrictions when possible. I

think it is very promising for MVNU that we started the semester with a relatively low rate of infection. If that rate continues to hold, we could find ourselves in a place where protocols can be adjusted in a responsible way."

According to Emily Wilson, junior here at MVNU, "Being at MVNU this semester has been extremely difficult for me. Being a social person and not having visitation in the apartments, little to note events, and only 100 students being allowed into sporting events makes for a very boring semester."

Junior, Kaylee Myers, agrees with Wilson. "I understand that the protocols are in place to keep us all safe, but how is hanging out with people in the lobby different than hanging out in our apartments? How is it OK for 40 or so people in a gym to play basketball, be within 6 feet of each other and not have masks on? I just find it unfair," said Myers.

MVNU Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.

By Ellie Perry

Like countless universities across the nation, MVNU celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 18 in the annual chapel service. Tavarus Taylor, who was appointed as the Director of Intercultural Life in May 2020, offered his insight on the national holiday. When asked about the importance of recognizing King's life each year, Taylor commented, "Dr. King played an important role in bringing change. The fact that he was a preacher who changed the world and his movement was spiritual . . . that's inspiring to me." He added that we can't further MLK Jr.'s dream without the help of the Lord.

While King was a beacon for change, Taylor stressed that there is still more work to do for his dream to be fully realized. Speaking about King's dream, Taylor noted, "It has been advanced, and we are getting there. But Dr. King's dream was for America to be America . . . the America that it is on paper." By this, he continued, he meant a nation with a justice, legal and immigration system that works for all people.

Taylor is positive that Martin Luther King Jr. will continue to be celebrated annually. As Dr. King once said, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." May we at MVNU continue to shine forth, go out into the world and do small things in great ways.

586 Café Reopens For Spring Semester

By Leslie Uphouse

The 586 is back! Despite speculations that they would remain shut down, the 586 returns to serve the student body under new hours, management and procedures. Fall semester turned out to be difficult for the staff, and several members explained that the option to stay open remained impossible without changes for the spring.

Riley Moody, one of the student managers, stated that small staff numbers and changes in management contributed to the problem last semester, with members going in and out of quarantine and no shift coverage.

Alyssa Sidle, a crew member, echoed Riley and said, "COVID-19 initially shut us down with some staff members testing positive, and others, including myself, going into quarantine. We couldn't reopen after things got better because of the lack of staff."

On top of the short staff problem, they experienced equipment malfunctions. The oven used to cook pizzas and Weird Bread no longer heated properly, and both the ice machine and fryer weren't working.

Due to the departure of the daytime and head managers, Moody stepped in as new head manager and began the process of working to reopen this spring.

"It was challenging to learn every system," said Moody. "But now that we have laid a new foundation, we're operating very smoothly."

To prepare for reopening,

the 586 hired more staff and put together safety precautions that expanded from last fall. All staff wear masks, submit weekly spit tests and sanitize often to abide by MVNU COVID-19 protocols. In addition, all transactions take place behind plexiglass barriers.

Single-serving sauces are available to take, rather than workers handing them out, and students can scan their own ID card instead of handing it to the cashier. Similar to the campus cafeteria, the food can be either dine-in or take-out.

In terms of machinery, the oven still isn't working, so students cannot order pizza or Weird Bread; and unfortunately, the F'Real machine is no longer available, either. They are also no longer serving wraps, parfaits, subs or salads due to the change in management.

The updated menu includes chicken tenders, fries, Casey Burger, soft pretzels, fruit-flavored smoothies, coffee, fountain drinks, mozzarella sticks and onion rings. Adjusted hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 5-11 p.m.

The staff is delighted to be back and encourages all students to remain safe and continue to be vigilant.

"Many students have told us they rely on the 586 for meal exchanges," said Sidle. "Our worst nightmare is getting shut down again, and we hope that won't happen." To stay connected, check out their social media pages on Twitter and Instagram under the username "mvnu586."



Employees at The 586 welcomed students back to the cafe this semester after being shut down due to COVID-19 concerns.

Photo by Leslie Uphouse

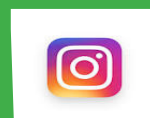
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RDs and RAs: The Unsung Heroes of Residence Life

By Mike Basko

Taking care of students and managing dorm life is not an easy task, even without a global pandemic taking place. Resident Directors (RDs) and Resident Assistants (RAs) have many duties to keep residence life running smoothly for students living on campus. These duties have only increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has raged over the course of the past year. The virus has provided an extra challenge for the staff and has added another level of concern regarding student safety. RAs and RDs must make sure that the new virus protocols are implemented and adhered to by the students, while also following all of the protocols themselves in order to set a good example.

Josh Kusch, the director of residence life at MVNU, states that he believes the residence staff is top-notch. "On a professional level," he went on, "I am so thankful for the RDs the Lord has brought us." David Calvarese, the RD of Oakwood Hall, is in the middle of his first year here at MVNU. Knowing the challenges that the virus would provide, Calvarese says that he was not sure what to expect coming into the job. However, starting in such an unusual year made him appreciate the job more. He states that "the hardest part (of the job) is knowing how hard they (the new protocols) are on the students. I was also a student, and having (to enforce) them as part of my responsibilities hurts me in a way." Calvarese knows the stress the students are also

experiencing, determinedly saying "Nothing is going to stop me from breathing life into this position."

On the other hand, Kusch also praised the RAs for their faithful work, and the fact that while the RAs are employees of the school, they are also full-time students. Calvarese also said of the RAs "Yeah it's crazy how amazing and flexible they've been." He is impressed by the way they've felt God's call on their life and their ability to keep peers accountable. Zach Strouse, an RA in Oakwood Hall, says that it has been difficult to enforce the new protocols such as dispersing groups of students and making sure everyone is wearing their masks in order to protect their peers. He is always gracious toward offenders, preferring to issue a friendly reminder for students instead of being harsh regarding the non-compliance. Despite the unpleasant tasks of enforcing the protocols and sometimes having to write students up for refusing to comply, Strouse states "I still love my job, even with the challenge of Covid."

The sacrifice and hard work of the MVNU Residence Life staff is evident in the community. They are doing their best to provide opportunities for residents to get to know each other in the midst of the pandemic.

The Residence life staff prioritizes the students so they can grow into who they are called to be, and the RDs and RAs are a crucial part of keeping students safe and on the right path.



Oakwood Hall RA Zach Strouse, left, discusses dorm life in Oakwood with freshman Larry Ritterbech. Photo by Mike Basko.

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program Coming To MVNU in Fall

By Allison Prouty

Mount Vernon Nazarene University will be welcoming a brand-new degree program this fall. Students will now be able to major in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. This comprehensive program will prepare students to work with non-profit, private and governmental agencies during crises. Dr. Thad Hicks, Professor of Emergency Management & Criminal Justice, said that "The crises that pop up, that's our job -- to bring order out of chaos." Over the past several years, the demand for people who can effectively manage emergencies has been rising. Crises such as political unrest, natural disasters, and even the COVID-19 pandemic have led to this need.

Dr. LeeAnn Coutts, Dean

of the School of Natural and Social Sciences, said that the courses offered for this major will help prepare students for any career in emergency management. "They will be doing this in real life situations," she said. Students in this major will take classes such as Introduction to Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Phases of Emergency Management, Grant Writing, Principles of Management, Politics and Policy and a capstone project. There will also be elective courses like Hazardous Materials, Crisis Communication, International Development, Trauma Healing and Crisis Intervention.

For more information about the Emergency Management and Homeland Security major, contact Dr. Thad Hicks at thad.hicks@mvnu.edu or call him at (740) 601-1252.

Cheerleaders Hit the Competition Trail

The MVNU competition cheer team officially kicked off their season in mid-January by competing virtually in the Concordia University invite. The competition team went up against three other schools during this competition.

Coach Melissa Nowicki shared her thoughts after the first competition, stating, "It was exciting to participate in our first competition from Ariel Arena! This is a solid start, and I am looking forward to our scores improving throughout the season."

Since then, the team has been practicing hard every day to improve and try to clean up their routine to improve their score for the next competition. Sophomore Madison Clapp stated, "We were proud of the first routine we put on the floor this year but are working hard every single practice so that we can improve next time. Although our first competition was virtual, it was still so much fun."

Although this season has been so different, the cheer team takes all the difficulty and challenges that are brought to them and tries to make the best out of every situation. Sophomore Jinney Watkins stated, "In the fall, we had to quarantine for two weeks, so we were forced to work even harder once we got back for the spring semester. I think this brought us closer as a team and made us realize how lucky we are to be competing and that we can't take it for granted."

For this only being the second year of competition cheer at MVNU, the team is doing



The MVNU cheerleading team practices for their recent competition at Concordia University.

a great job and improving tremendously as their season continues. The team was very strong during their second competition of the season taking place at Indiana Wesleyan University where they hit two very strong routines and improved their score for the second routine.

The competition cheer team then hosted a home competition versus Bethel University and Point Park University on Feb. 5.

Their season of competition then wrapped up Feb. 19 at St. Francis University and at the Crossroads League Championship on Feb. 27 at Indiana Wesleyan University.

MVNU Bowlers Wrap Up Season

By Dana Hicks

The MVNU bowling program wrapped up their 2019 season in February 2020. It was a tough season, as the program attempted to make the jump from club to varsity. Now, after four months of practices and a two-month delay to the start of competition, they begin what should be their 2020 season. This season will prove what the Cougars bowling team is actually made of.

The men and women competed in their first event of the season on Jan. 16 in the Buckeye Baker Classic. The following tournament yielded

similar results. Then, something changed in the demeanor of these athletes going into their tournament in Lancaster on Feb. 6. Though the results still were not what they hoped for, it became clear that these men and women are hungry for success.

Why did the demeanor change? Well, COVID-19 protocols do not allow for spectators at the events. So, the teams turned to livestreaming from their Facebook page. After their second tournament, head coach Ron Garlinger received a number of text messages. "What is wrong

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Men's Volleyball Growing in Inaugural Season

By Mike Basko

A volleyball flies across the court, coming in hot. Daniel Skrzypchak dives, popping the ball up to the setter, Jason Matsumoto, who puts the ball in front of the net. Spencer Stanley then jumps, spiking the ball right to the ground. The team celebrates as the announcer excitedly yells, "Kill! Stanley!"

The men's volleyball team at MVNU has gotten off to a strong start in their first season, as they have nabbed two wins and have also held their own against nationally ranked teams. Coach Doug Sherer has done his best to turn this squad into a family group. Although he said the recruiting process has been tricky, he also stated that the campus and people have been very supportive of him. He has assembled a very diverse team from local talent like outside hitter Spencer Stanley, to setter Jason Matsumoto and opposite hitter Riley Barreto, who both hail from Hawaii. Sherer has scouted local competitions, most notably the national qualifier from Chicago, searching for potential talent. Regarding the team's play, he said, "I thought we could compete, but they've exceeded my expectations." The team appreciates this bond they share and what Coach Sherer has done for them.

Spencer Stanley, who led the team with 14 kills in the team's previous victory, remarked, "The biggest thing is that no one on the team is selfish; we all have one goal, and that is winning for each other. Our bond will get stronger,

and each game it has gotten stronger." Of coach Sherer, he said, "I feel like he reiterates the fact that what talents we have are blessings." Stanley is confident that as the team continues to play together, they will keep winning games.

Jaysen Matsumoto and Riley Barreto also enjoy the close bond the team has. Both coming from Hawaii. The two of them did not know what to expect coming into the team. They have fit right in on the team, as Matsumoto stated, "We have a close bond and good chemistry, which is something not all teams have." Barreto appreciates the amount of energy and heart that the team has. The two of them have helped propel the team to a strong start.

On the other hand, Laberro Daniel Skrzypchak said that he's been exposed to the game of volleyball all of his life. He was recruited by Sherer at one of the tournaments. He said that he did not know what to expect coming in but that he loves how the team has meshed.

"I'm proud of us and the way we've put this together in a short amount of time, he said." As the laberro, he's the rock of the defense and is charged with digging and keeping the ball from hitting the ground.

The MVNU men's volleyball team has put together a solid, well-bonded team in a short amount of time. Coach Sherer said that the sky's the limit as far as the future of the program is. He is continuing to recruit players from all over the country, trying to make an already strong program even better as they continue to play



The MVNU men's volleyball team gets in some practice in preparation for their upcoming conference competition.

Photo by Mike Basko

MVNU Bowlers Wrap Up Season

(Continued from page 7) with the team today?" "Why is the team so down?" "I noticed the body language wasn't very good today." Garlinger gathered the team together at the following practice, asking, "Do you guys know how many people are watching our live-streams? Do you know how many texts I received about our energy last weekend?"

After a week of working on energy and body language at practice, it carried over to the tournament. The end results did not translate, but Garlinger received a number of texts from people noticing the much improved energy the team held all day.

"I'm proud of you guys for that" he told his bowlers, "but we're still better than these results show."

Junior Dana Hicks provided some insight on the team dynamic, "Well, I'm the main

culprit of the negative body language. And it's not directed at the team or coach or anything like that, I'm just too hard on myself. Even when I throw a good shot, I'll find something to criticize myself over. As far as our last tournament goes, I'm so proud of these guys. To turn around our body language and energy like we did in the matter of a week is incredible. Hopefully, we can get the energy to translate into the scores next weekend, and eventually it will all morph into our team culture."

The Cougars look to maintain energy and composure this season on their journey to make it to the postseason. They were ranked in the 160s last season, and both teams are expected to crack the top 100 in the upcoming ranking. It is unclear what the national cut is, but the team is confident they are on the right path.

Research Project Focuses on Student Preparedness

By Abigail Brown

Senior social work major Kaylie Awbrey has recently conducted research on students being prepared to enter the workplace after their time at MVNU.

Awbrey created seven different scenarios that students may experience when applying for a job. She stated, “The idea

for my project was inspired by an experience I had working over the summer between my sophomore and junior years at MVNU.”

Awbrey said that the work experience sparked her curiosity if students would feel prepared for the environment that she encountered. Her hope for those who participated in the survey was that

they really thought about the different scenarios.

“It is important to know what your values are,” stated Awbrey, “but also to understand how those values might impact your interactions with real people and scenarios where there could be conflict.”

Awbrey has closed the survey to begin her analysis in

writing her paper. She stated that her goal was to have 50 participants respond to the survey, but she had almost 200.

Awbrey will virtually present the final results to an audience on Wednesday, April 7 at the Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Work (sURC).

Candidates Vying For Student Government Leadership Positions

By Allison Prouty

As MVNU students are preparing for the next academic year, the Student Government Association is preparing to welcome next year's group of student leaders. Elections for the SGA positions of Student Body President and the VP positions began Feb. 22 and ended Feb. 24. Class council positions will be voted on March 8-10.

The elections begin with VP positions and the Student Body President. The VP positions include the VP of Social Life, VP of Academic Life, VP of Community Life, VP of Spiritual Life, and VP of Diversity and Inclusion. Students are interviewed for these positions, and those that pass the interview are presented to be voted on by the student body.

After these elections, another round of elections is held to determine various appointed positions. Administrative Chairperson, Media Chairperson, VP of Marketing, Events Chairperson are

all interviewed and appointed by an election board. While these appointed positions are interviewed by a board of three outgoing SGA members, the Director of Campus Life, and another faculty member, only the outgoing SGA members cast votes. Ultimately, it is these voting SGA members that determine the appointed positions. At the same time that appointed position interviews are held, each of the student body classes will vote on their class council, which include the positions of Class President, Administrative Director, Class Ministries Director, and Events Director.

Tiffany Van Dame, Director of Campus Life, said that students running for all offices have to meet certain requirements to be considered. “Overall, all students have to be in good academic standing. So, depending on the position-class councils you have to have a 2.3 GPA or higher. For most of the VP positions, you have to have a 2.5 or higher. The VP of Academic Life has to have a 3.0 or higher.” Students

also have to be supportive of MVNU's mission as well as the MVNU community and lifestyle guidelines. Another factor is the length of time students have attended the University. To run for Student Body President or a VP position, a student has to be entering their third semester on campus at MVNU. Van Dame said that this is “so they understand the community.” Council positions only require that students have been on campus for at least one semester.

The students that are elected to these positions will have important roles to fill. Van Dame said that the VPs will be working with the department or group that corresponds to their position. For example, the VP of Community Life will be working closely with commuter students and clubs and completing all the administrative tasks that come with that. The VP of Spiritual Life works with both the SGA and Campus Ministries. They will find students to speak in chapel and can “lead the campus, spiritually,” said Van Dame.

All these positions require that the student elected be a strong leader to act in the best interest of the student body.

While this year has been challenging for her and her fellow SGA members because of COVID-19, current Student Body President Hannah Johns still has hope for next year's leaders. Johns said that “I think that everybody should be excited because . . . we have a lot of good people running. You'll have a good SGA team next year. I have full confidence that they will do such a good job.”

For the students who have applied for any of these positions, Johns said that “you should be proud of yourself for putting your name out there, even if you don't get elected, even if you're just running. That's showing your willingness to be a part of something. Be excited and be proud of yourself for making that step.”

For more information about the Student Government Association and the elections, visit mvnusga.com.