

Lobdell publishes “Signs of Life”

By Jaxon Yoder

MVNU’s Campus Pastor, Stephanie Lobdell, recently published her book *Signs of Life* which focuses on the losses and pain that we experience in everyday life and how God is seen in these.

“[It began when] I was a young pastor and we were having a significant church conflict with some leaders in our church,” Lobdell said. “It didn’t seem like there was a way forward.” One of the church’s leaders came in to help them navigate their conflict, and Lobdell said that he asked a question: “Is the resurrection enough to offer us a way out of this?”

“It planted this idea that the resurrection of Jesus was more than us getting our sins wiped clean,” she said, “that perhaps the resurrection power of God IS at

work in our lives right now.”

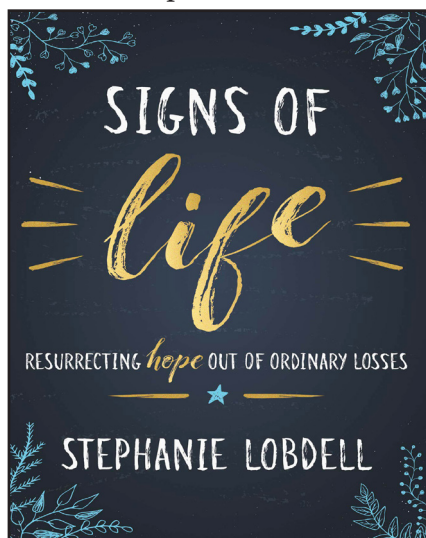
The book explores this concept through various stories from Lobdell’s life, each focusing on a mini death to her, and connects it to a Biblical narrative that mirrored it. As an example, she said, “The story for the death of zeal, the deconstruction of my faith when I was in college and God rebuilding that into something more faithful.

“I integrate that with the story of Saul, who becomes Paul, and how he felt he was serving God 100 percent, yet at the same time he was pointed in the wrong direction. God reoriented that zeal into a path of faithfulness that was cross shaped.”

Overall, she says that her story is ultimately asking “What does God have to say to the ordinary losses that may seem not even worth mentioning that produce real hurt, pain, regret, and loss within us?”

“I want [readers] to know that no loss, death, or pain experienced is unseen by God,” she said. “I also want them to recognize that the same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in the life of the believer, in the church, and is breaking into creation.”

Signs of Life is currently available to purchase on Amazon and at the Cougar Corner Bookstore.



T H E J U S T I C E P R O J E C T

Justice Project promotes student discussion on campus

By Ellie Parker

The first Justice Talk of the fall 2019 semester asked the question “What is justice?” on Sept. 11. This Justice Project event featured Dr. Hank Spaulding, Associate Campus Pastor, speaking on the topic and prompted small group discussion of justice, righteousness and peace. Dr. Spaulding said that justice must always be rooted in faith, relational and inclusive for everyone, maintaining that everyone deserves justice simply by “being a creature made in the image of God.”

Justice Project coordinators Ellen Baker and Daniel Luther have planned several events throughout the upcoming semester. The next event is scheduled for Nov. 4 and will be on the topic of “Creation Care,” followed by a Refugee Talk on Nov. 18. Both events will start at 7 pm.

The MVNU Justice Project “works to seek out and address issues concerning the well-being of humanity through education, discussion, and positive action with the purpose of bringing the Kingdom to the community.”

Campus community participates in Safety Week training

By **Hannah Barco**

All around the United States, mass shootings continue to take place in all sorts of public places. This year, MVNU decided to take steps to try and teach students and staff what to do in the event of a shooting on campus. Students and staff went through mandatory training programs to learn what to do if ever the situation were to arise and immediate response was needed.

The overall student response to the training has been mixed so far. “Understanding that this is happening around the country in different schools and other public places is one thing, but to have to think about it taking place at my school is terrifying. The training

didn’t really make me feel any safer, just more nervous about the whole idea of things,” said senior Abigail Brennan. Another student on campus, sophomore Kaylee Meyers, agrees with the fact that it’s more nerve-wracking after going through training. “Even though we have gone through the training, it doesn’t mean that we’ll remember it when the time comes that we need to use it. In that situation, it’s going to be hectic and everyone will be scared. We’re not going to think about what the seminar instructor said at the beginning of the year,” said Meyers.

Although some students are nervous about it, others appreciate the idea and even welcome the fact that staff had gone through training as well. “Even though I may forget

the training that I went through for a shooter situation, I know that staff and campus safety underwent a more in-depth training and are very prepared for a scary situation where they need to keep people safe,” said junior Skylar Lakes.

Campus Safety is still going through different trainings in order to keep MVNU students and staff safe in an active shooter situation. Tony Edwards, the director of campus safety, said, “It was necessary to put in place these trainings to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff for the unlikely event that an active shooter was to be on campus. Although there has been no signs or threats made towards the university, we still need to take

appropriate action to be prepared.”

Edwards goes on to say that the campus safety officers are receiving more “hands on training with the Mount Vernon Police Department and classroom sessions with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies, all of this being facilitated by the Mount Vernon Police Department, Knox County Emergency Management Agency and internal MVNU Management.” In regard to Safety Weeks in the future, Edwards said, “There will continue to be annual active aggressor training as well as monthly internal safety department meetings to keep everyone up to date.”

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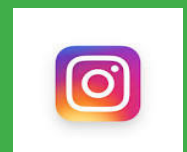
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Student Life and SGA working to make improvements on campus

By Ellie Parker

The Student Life and SGA offices are working hard to improve life at MVNU for students.

At the "A Time to Talk" event on Sept. 23, Tracy Waal, Director of Student Life, shared with students and opened the floor for questions and comments. Waal spoke directly about how MVNU uses feedback from students to improve and make changes in certain areas.

The Student Life Survey is one of the ways that Waal and his team can gauge student satisfaction with several different aspects of campus life. The survey utilizes a two-part question system. The first half of a question asks students to rate how important something is to them, and the second part asks students to assign a number to how satisfied they are in that area. There is also a section for students to further express themselves on each question, should they wish to do so. This data is tabulated and gives a number for importance and a number for satisfaction. Waal and his team

look at the gap between those two numbers to determine what areas of student life are not up to student expectations. "The bigger the gap, the less satisfied you are," said Waal.

For example, according to the 2018 survey, "Hearing student voice" was ranked 9.418 out of 10 for importance to students. However, student satisfaction in that area was only 6.553 out of 10, showing a gap of 2.865. Depending on the size of the gap, Waal and the SGA determine what areas need improvement, and how much.

The survey has been conducted twice so far – 681 students responded this September. By comparing the gaps from the two surveys, Waal is able to see what areas showed marked improvement, what stayed the same, and what got worse over the course of one school year.

Waal said that he personally reads every comment left on the survey and is dedicated to making change in the necessary areas to improve life for MVNU students.

New chapel administration introduced at MVNU

By Mark Wesley

MVNU's chapel team has just been revamped.

MVNU welcomed the arrival of its new Campus Pastor, Stephanie Lobdell, this past July. Lobdell is originally from Idaho and has worked as a co-pastor at the Mountain Home Church of the Nazarene with her husband. Speaking about Lobdell, MVNU Henry President Spaulding had nothing but kind words to say.

"Stephanie is well-read, theologically articulate, an experienced pastor, and she has international experience," Spaulding said. "All of this will contribute to the spiritual development of our community."



Stephanie Lobdell

In her introductory email, Lobdell details her new outlook for the 2019-2020 school year, while expressing gratitude for Anthony Mako, Kendra Lambert and Catie Hayes, who departed earlier in the year.

"We are all grateful to Kendra, Catie and Anthony Mako for their years of service," Lobdell stated. "The resources left behind for me by Catie and Kendra were thorough and helpful. I am grateful to them for that provision."

In this email, she also presented forth the new Campus Ministries staff members. MVNU alums Mark

Owen and Chelsea Connor Porter were picked up to be the Coordinator of Chapel Worship and Office Coordinator, respectively. Lobdell praised them both highly, saying about Owen, "Mark is not only extremely competent as a musician and leader, but he also has the heart of a pastor. He is eager to invest in you!" Owen is also the Worship Pastor at First Church of the Nazarene in Mount Vernon.

Lastly, Dr. Hank Spaulding was chosen to be the new Associate Campus Pastor. The email details the selection process that ultimately led to this decision being made. According to Lobdell, after an arduous application period, it ultimately came down to "three top candidates." It was during a deliberation with Scott Campbell that the choice was made to pick Dr. Spaulding for the position.

Campbell, who is an MVNU alum, was recently appointed as the new Finance VP/CFO. His previous position was a volunteer spot on the Board of Trustees. Campbell's duties will see him working closely with president and Senior Leadership Team in overseeing all financial operations including school budget, accounting, risk management, and human resources. In the press release, he said in his return to his alma mater that, "MVNU provided the foundation for both my spiritual and professional growth. I am thrilled that after 33 years, I have been given the opportunity to return to MVNU to serve."

"I hope you will welcome my staff into the MVNU family and to the office of Campus Ministries," Lobdell said as she concluded her inaugural email. "We are so excited to work with you this year as we all seek to grow in love and service to God and others."

The Caf rolls out new offerings for fall semester

By Ellie Parker

“We are committed to serving you and providing you with the best dining experience possible.”

As students returned to campus and college life this semester, many were excited to discover that “The Caf” had undergone some changes to prepare for the new school year. Two new serving lines were introduced, “Smoked” and “Lite and Healthy,” and a brand new coffee machine was added to “keep up [with] the demands of tired college students,” said Food Service Director Rob Stiltner. The 586 also boasts some new items and a ‘f’real smoothie and milkshake machine. Stiltner explained that, “The changes stem from student feedback. It is important to allow campus an opportunity to voice their concerns

and [share] what they think will help the student experience.” Driven by student feedback, Stiltner and his team worked to “come up with a plan” to deliver. “Menu items are easy to implement, but the layout and flow of the serving areas is the biggest challenge, he said.

Students seem happy with the cafeteria updates. “The caf has really stepped up their game this year,” said MVNU junior Alyssa Bales. “I really like the new salad bar options!” Junior Chloe Davis is also very pleased with the new options in the cafeteria and said, “The clearly marked stations and newly arranged sections are better for large crowds, and the variety of food caters to the preferences or culinary needs of every student in a different way.

The cafeteria will continue to roll



Food Service Director Rob Stiltner poses by the new “Lite and Healthy” display at the MVNU cafeteria.

out new menu items and side bar rotations throughout the semester, and a smoothie machine will also debut in the Dining Commons. Stiltner said that the overwhelming response so far has been positive,

and that the Pioneer team always appreciates “hearing the good things we are doing, but we know we are only as good as what meal we just served.”

MVNU’s annual Festival Latino

By Abigail Brown

The 14th annual Festival Latino was held on the MVNU campus on Sept. 27. The program was located in the Prince Student Union and featured many fun and exciting activities. Students and community members were able to learn more about the Latino culture while enjoying games, face painting, balloons, popcorn, culture tables, food, fellowship and music.

Sophomore student Keylor Vega from Costa Rica was involved with Festival Latino so that he can share his culture with others. “I get to

actually see a little bit of my culture and talk to people from [the] same culture,” stated Vega.

Some MVNU AIM alumni were able to return to the festival to share more about their culture and their transition to the United States. Director of Intercultural Life Jim Singletary said that the event exists to “celebrate the culture of our students, giving them an opportunity to have something that celebrates their lives and to share with their peers. This is our mission, to make everyone feel like they belong, not just for MVNU, but for our community.”



Students and community members celebratng Latino culture filled the Prince Student Union for Festival Latino on Sept. 27.

MVNU's longest-serving employee retires after 46 years

By Ellie Perry

Mount Vernon Nazarene University celebrated Roberta Simmons' retirement on Friday, Sept. 27. An honorary reception was held so past classmates and the campus community could celebrate the 46 years Simmons invested in the university. MVNU celebrated 50 years in 2018, Simmons had been around from nearly the beginning.

"Being a part of MVNU for almost 50 years has become my family," Simmons said. "They shared at my wedding, helped raise my children, loved me through the death of my son and prayed me through cancer. God has been good to me."

Upon her retirement, Simmons said that she will participate in volunteer work "either at [her] grandchildren's school or perhaps at the hospital." She also said that she misses the students and fellowship with her fellow employees the most.

"Roberta was one of the most faithful employees that MVNU has ever had," said Karen Bush, one of Simmons' supervisors. "She began as the secretary to the academic dean, Dr. Lloyd Taylor, and basically grew up with the college/university.



Roberta Simmons, MVNU's longest-tenured employee, recently retired after serving for 46 years.

She lived the community family spirit that was at the heart of MVNC, and she never forgot it. There aren't many of those folks around anymore, and I think that is what I will miss most about her." Bush went on to say that Roberta always had a smile on her face, and her warm personality made the post office at MVNU a wonderful

place to work.

Gina Blanchard, director of MVNU's campus store, the Cougar Corner, said much of the same about Simmons. "I will miss seeing Roberta's smile and hearing her sweet laughter," she said. "In her presence, I always feel her joy; her joy is contagious!" Blanchard went on to say that she hoped Simmons

would visit the campus often.

Additionally, current students who work at the post office shared about how Roberta impacted their lives. "If we had questions in the post office, Roberta would always try and help us; and as soon as we needed something, she would work on it to get a solution," said education major Taylor Gregory. She went on to say that Simmons "created individual relationships with each and every person she met."

Another student shared that Simmons was "like a grandma to so many people on the campus." Junior Michaela Patrick had nothing but kind things to say about the retiree. "If anybody needed to talk, she was just such a great listener and was so supportive of everyone in the community."

"I will miss seeing Roberta's smile and hearing her sweet laughter. In her presence, I always feel her joy."

-- Gina Blanchard on Roberta Simmons

Rain cause of stadium delay

By Hunter Sutyak

The MVNU soccer and lacrosse stadium has seen several deadline extensions due to one major un-

foreseen circumstance.

James Smith, Vice President of University Relations, is overseeing the project. Smith said, "Excavation is complete for the turf field . . . and

the pad has been laid." The pad, which the turf will eventually lay on top of, has been too wet to lay the turf due to the extensive rain observed this summer. The months of January through August were the wettest on record in the United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The rain seen every two to four days has forced Smith and his team to pursue a stabilization project, instead of waiting it out, to speed up the process of completing the turf. The process will "add a concrete

mixture to the pad." The mixture will allow the turf company to resume their work which started back up on Sept. 16.

Although the process will resume, it looks unlikely that the field will be complete by the end of the soccer season. Smith says they are hoping that the field is completed before homecoming in mid-November.

The last home soccer game for the women is Oct. 19 and the 23rd for the men, which means the hope of playing a game on the turf this season looks bleak.



Digital rendering of the proposed MVNU soccer and lacrosse stadium by Strollo Architects.

MVNU men's soccer team off to a hot start

By Hunter Sutyak

Head coach Zach Ganzburg has entered his third season with the Cougar men's soccer team, leading them to an early 4-1 record. Ganzburg said the great start is due to the "good foundations in place, both in terms of our style, system of play and our culture." These foundations, although important, were not the only reason the Cougars have started so well. Senior captain Conner Davis said, "The group we have this year is really eager to learn and build off of each other every training session and game. It's a tight-knit group that wants to win."

The Cougars lost their first game of the season 1-0 to fourth-ranked Madonna out of Michigan. Since

that first loss, the Cougars have won four straight games. The four consecutive wins has expectations running high for the rest of the season, especially as Crossroads

League play begins at the end of the month.

Ganzberg said, "The ceiling for this team is high . . . as we head into Crossroads League play, my

hope is that we will continue to get closer to our maximum potential." That potential can be tough to reach with a team so diverse, but Ganzburg hopes that "soccer styles and personalities blend together" as the season continues.

Last season, the Cougars finished 3-3-3 in the Crossroads League, finishing in third, with those wins coming against Grace, Huntington and Goshen. The Cougars hope to change that .500 record in the Crossroads league. "It's going to be important to fine tune little things," Davis said. "If we can be at least 1% better every day, I believe we have a great rest of the season."

The men started Crossroads League play on Sept. 25, on the road against the Indiana Wesleyan University Wildcats.

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Women's soccer team sets goals for conference play

By Abigail Brown

The MVNU women's soccer team kicked off their season with a great start! The Lady Cougars are now eight games into the season with a record of 5-2-1.

The Crossroads League is one of the top conferences in the country, especially for women's soccer. "It is an extremely competitive conference which makes it fun to be a part of. Last year, we finished fourth in the conference, and I think that we can compete again this year for another top-four finish," said Varsity Head Coach Sarah Maracani.

From the very start of the season, the team has set a variety of goals on and off the field. Coach Maracani stated, "We want to host the (See Women's Soccer on page 8)



Members of the MVNU women's soccer team are, front row from left, Head Coach Sarah Maracani, Brookelynn Semmelroth, Kayla Kalischuk, Paige Renz, Malanie Critzer, Amberly Knox, Ashley Townsend, Alex Skal, Adison Preston, Madison Therrian, and assistant coach James Maracani. Back row, Kenzie Thorne, Kayle Vipperman, Sarah Townsend, Missy Emery, Ann Chrysler, Natalie Covert-Saal, Kaitlin Meade, Caitlin Erlandson, and Sarah Guipe. Photo provided by MVNU Athletics.

Cougar baseball team sports perfect record for 2019 fall season

By Hunter Dent

The Cougar baseball team has concluded their fall season. They

finished with a perfect record of 5-0 and look to improve on that record going into the spring season. They first played a doubleheader



Yanni Patten rips a hit during recent fall action with the MVNU Cougars baseball team. The Cougars finished the fall season with a perfect record of 5-0. Photo provided by MVNU Athletics.

against Ohio Christian University on Sept. 28. The Cougars won both games against OCU, defeating the Trailblazers 27-0 and 10-1, starting the season with a 2-0 record.

The MVNU team was able to keep their momentum going through the weekend of Oct. 4 against the Michigan Dearborn Wolverines in a three-game series. The Cougars won all three games against the Wolverines and thus concluded their fall season with a 5-0 record.

Kobe Miller, a senior on the baseball team, is very excited for this upcoming season.

"We performed really well as a team . . . Our pitching staff is really exciting this year. We didn't gradu-

ate many arms, and the addition of Coaches Kubbs and Bacon are going to be huge for us." Miller went on to say that he expects the team to compete very well in the spring and should once again be near the top of the conference. "We have the talent to win the league and that's our goal every year," he added.

Miller is looking forward to the spring season and competing in Florida over spring break. "It's been the highlight for my first three years here. Going down and playing some really good competition is always fun, and it's a good measuring stick of where we're at."

The Cougar baseball team had an impressive start and will definitely be a team to watch come spring.

MVNU men's golf season underway

By Hunter Dent

The golf season has been underway since the beginning of September. The men's team is composed of 12 golfers, three of which are seniors. The women's team has a total of seven golfers; however, there are no seniors on the roster. Both teams will both be competing in six tournaments and finishing their season at the end of October.

Head Coach Mike King is entering his sixth season with the Cougars and recognizes the high level of competition in the Crossroads League. "Both teams are working hard on improving each and every tournament. In golf, we teach them to take it one shot at a time and not to dwell on the previous shot." Coach King said that by moving forward with a positive mindset, the teams will "continue to progress and improve every day."

The men's team competed in two tournaments in early September, the Ohio Dominican University Kickoff Classic and The Players Club Invitational. At the ODU Kickoff Classic, the men's team finished 10th, led by senior Nick Harmon. Harmon shot a team best of 77 in the first round and a 79 in the second round.

At the Players Club in Yorktown, Indiana, the men's team finished in eighth place. Adam Grate, a senior from Berlin, Ohio, completed the tournament shooting a 72 in the second round. The Cougars were able to hang onto the eighth-place position by edging out Indiana Tech by one shot. The team is hoping that they will continue to progress as individuals and as a team. The team's next tournament was Sept. 23 in the Spring Arbor University Bill Bockwitz Classic at The Grande Golf Club in Jackson,



Cougar senior Adam Grate hits from the fairway at the Bill Bockwitz Classic on Sept. 23.

Photo provided by MVNU Athletics.

Michigan

The women's team has also competed in two tournaments, the first of which was the Battle at Brookwood in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The team finished in fifth place and was led by sophomores Peyton Broce and Emily Wilson, who tied for 11th place overall. Broce and Wilson shot a total of 156 in two rounds during the weekend.

The team also finished in fifth place at The Players Club Invitational. Broce once again played very well and finished in eighth place. Broce shot a team best of 78 and 79 in the first and second rounds. The women's team continued their strong season debut as they joined the men's team at the SAU Bill Bockwitz Classic.

Senior Austin Baker is optimistic about his team's performance after the conclusion of the first two tournaments. "Our team score at tournaments keeps on dropping lower and lower," said Baker. "It is very exciting to see how we do as everyone gets more comfortable in tournament settings."

"For me, the season is not going exactly the way I have wanted it to, but there is a lot of season left," said Baker. "My goals for this season are to shoot a 75 in a tournament setting and continue to get better while building strong friendships with my teammates."

The golf teams practice at the Chapel Hill Golf Course in Mount Vernon and hosted the Mount Vernon Nazarene Fall Invitational on Oct. 5. Baker is very pleased with the location of their home course. "Playing at a super nice course is awesome and makes you feel like a Division 1 golfer."

Women's soccer

(Continued from page 7)

first conference tournament game, get a bid to nationals, having a variety of girls score for us, having a 3.6 team GPA or higher, support other fall teams, and many more – but those are a few!"

Senior goalkeeper Anna Chrysler has set her personal goals for the season as well. "It's hard to believe that this is my last season. Going into every game, my goal is 'sacrifice your body for the team.' This year especially, my mental and physical strength has to be at its best because I am playing with a torn labrum. My goal is to encour-

age the girls on my team to leave everything on the field and to see the good in every mistake they make on the field. When I focus on encouraging others, that is when I play my best," said Chrysler.

Conference season is just around the corner, and Chrysler is looking forward to it. She said, "I am excited for our conference play to begin... anyone could win the conference this year; so if we do what we need to do and play our game, I know we will go far."

The Lady Cougars began Crossroads League play on Sept. 25 at Indian Wesleyan University.