



Photos by Danielle Zoellner

MVNU received a \$425,000 donation to purchase the former Seventh-day Adventist Church on South Edgewood Road. The church sits on five acres of land.

Another new opportunity

University purchases empty church with donated funds

By Maddie Cogan

With donated funds, the University has purchased the former Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist City Church building on South Edgewood Road.

Although the use for the building has not been determined yet, MVNU President Dr. Henry Spaulding is excited for the opportunities that it will provide for MVNU.

The building includes 10,572 square feet, and sits on five acres of land. It is less than a mile from the back entrance to MVNU's campus.

So far, there has been casual talk of moving the MVNU preschool, which operates out of the first floor of the Clarence and Jennie Moore building. Spaulding said this week that the church would be a good fit for the preschool.

The space, which includes a large kitchen, also could be used as an expanded student center where students can gather for formal and casual activities, Spaulding said. It could even host a haunted house at Halloween, or student activities such as eSports.

The building can also build connections in the community. If a church would like to rent it, the University would be open to that discussion, Spaulding said.

Campus officials are asking for ideas and input from students and staff for other possible uses for the space.

"A final decision for the purpose of the church will be made in the spring," Spaulding said.

The Ohio Conference of Seventh Day Adventists decided to sell the building after City Church merged with another church last year due to a decline in membership.

The combined group now worships at the Mount Vernon Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church on Wooster Road.

Although the City Church no longer has a physical building, its presence is still felt in the community through a weekly hot meal program offered every Saturday night at Mount Vernon Adventist Elementary.

According to the Knox County Auditor's Office, the property was purchased for \$425,000. The sale was finalized on Oct. 30. The University did not say who donated funds for the purchase.

Not enough space

MVNU has canceled plans to move the student post office, bookstore and printing and mailing services into the PSU.

University officials had planned to make the move in the spring.

But, the move was nixed because there's not enough space, according to President Dr. Henry Spaulding.

Spaulding said the plan called for all three services to move into the current PSU game room. But there's not square footage in the game room or adjoining areas to accommodate the move.

He said the University would have had to take away from the coaching offices in the hallway on the north side of the building to make everything fit.



Recruiting for the Reserve

It now begins with a text

By Danielle Zoellner

MVNU students were surprised, puzzled and even angry to receive a text message last month from a U.S. Army Reserve recruiter.

Sophomore Elise Murray thought it was a spam text, and senior Kristie Hammond was confused to see the message on her phone.

"How did they get my number," Hammond said. "Why did they reach out to me?"

The text messages were sent by Staff Sergeant Jacob Potter, a recruiter of the U.S. Army Reserve.

The messages are not a new means of outreach for recruiters. Potter said he has been using text messages for the past several years to connect with students.

"From college to high school, students are more adept to sending texts than answering a call," Potter said.

Students are less likely to answer an unknown number than to respond to a text, he said.

Potter spent a few hours sending out the messages one day last month. Potter said he received a range of responses.

"The majority don't reply," Potter said. "Others reply with interest and some were rude. You don't have to be rude."

Potter explained how and why the Army Reserve obtained students' information.

"Every year, colleges and universities are required to release student contact information," Potter said.

This requirement is due to the Solomon Amendment, which gives military recruiters the same access to students 17 and older that other recruiters have.

An institution is denied access to federal grants if it does not comply with the

amendment's requirements.

As a result, contact information for all students receiving federal aid gets released to any U.S. military recruiters who ask for it, Potter said. Information given to the recruiting offices can range from names and phone numbers to majors and academic levels.

University Registrar Mel Severns said he has no power to deny the information. All students 17 years or older are on the directory of information that gets released, he said.

Out of the 1,377 traditional undergraduate students enrolled this semester, 1,176 were on the list released to the Army Reserve.

"Personally, do I like giving the information? Not really," Severns said.

Students have the option to opt out of the directory, Potter said. The university's registrar's office is required by law to remove any student who wants taken off the list.

However, students who opt out of the military listing opt out of everything, Severns said.

The registrar's office cannot allow information to go anywhere else if the military doesn't receive the same access to the information, he explained.

"We cannot differentiate from services because we don't want them bugging our students," Severns said.

Severns said restricting the release of contact information can harm students by not allowing them to be contacted for possible jobs or internships.

Although all branches of the military can request information, most do not, Severns said.

He typically receives one or two military requests for information a year.

The university does not have to give directory information unless a recruiter directly asks for it. There have been years when no information has been given out.

Severns said registrars are very protective of student information.

"We work to protect your data, so we don't like to hand it out," Severns said.

Severns said this was the first instance of text messages he has heard of.

Potter said he wants students to look at the Reserves as a legitimate way to gain practical work experience and help earn money to pay for college.

The Army Reserves offers training in more than 120 different career fields. Jobs range from cooks and plumbers to engineers and human resource managers.

"Many people believe the college incentives are the biggest reason to enlist in the U.S. Army Reserve, but my belief is that the networking piece and the ability to meet prominent members of the community far outweigh any type of incentive," Potter said.

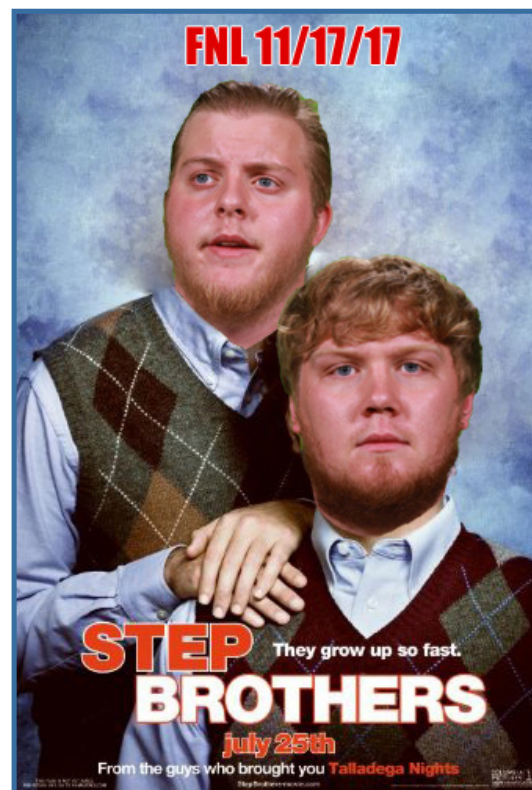
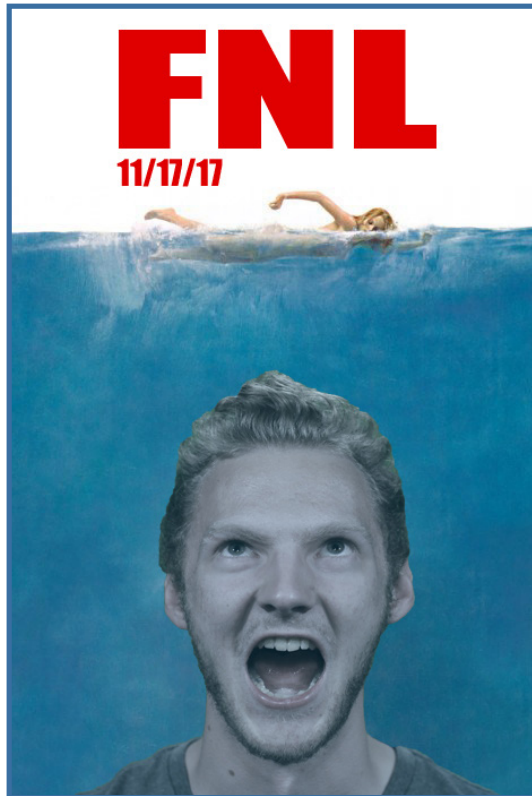
"Who you know is very important, and the Army Reserve puts you side by side with those individuals."

Basic training lasts for 10 weeks, with career training afterward. The Reserve is a part-time, one-weekend-a-month commitment for at least two years.

Students can be called up to active service, but they typically get called upon only during times of war. They usually do not get pulled out during the middle of a semester and they generally get notified six to 12 months before deployment, Potter said.

Students are paid during their training and monthly drills, and they also are eligible for tuition assistance and student loan repayment.

Friday Night Laughs



The tradition continues

By Danielle Zoellner

Friday Night Live changed hands this semester from an SGA event to a club all its own. Friday Night Live, or FNL, is a skit-based event that takes place each semester. The comedy stage production is similar to the popular “Saturday Night Live” show — but with an MVNU twist.

Students write and act out their own skits poking fun at MVNU campus life and other relevant cultural trends and issues.

The semester premiere is Nov. 17. The event features two showings, at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Junior Eddie Dilts and senior Spencer Chajkowski run the new FNL Club, but they continue to answer to Director of Campus Life Rochel Furniss and the new club adviser Justin Nowicki.

Nowicki was one of the originators of FNL during his time as an undergrad here from 2007 to 2011. He is now the Director of Development for MVNU.

Nowicki said his presence and the shift of FNL to club status won’t make much of a difference to most of campus.

“The average student wouldn’t know the difference, except those who are behind the scenes,” Nowicki said.

Student Life continues to review scripts, except now both student leaders and Nowicki review them before passing them on to Furniss for the final check.

Leadership of the club is balanced between two people, President Dilts and Vice President Chajkowski.

Dilts said the change has helped create a faster turnaround for skits. And, there has been less pressure on the president, he said.

While the shift has not caused major changes in the way FNL runs, it has prompted the club’s leaders to renew the focus on the event’s legacy.

With FNL no longer connected to SGA, it becomes more important to find people willing to keep the FNL tradition alive year to year, Dilts said. If no one wants to step up and run the club, the FNL tradition won’t survive.

One of this year’s goals is to create a system that encourages students to invest in FNL and makes FNL a permanent part of the MVNU culture.

As always, students this year were given the opportunity to audition skits for the event. There was a large interest by students, especially freshmen, for this semester, Dilts said.

Although not everyone could be accepted, the interest from underclassmen was encouraging, Dilts said.

“I would have loved to take more freshmen,” said Dilts. “I want freshmen perspective. I don’t want it to seem like it’s a clique or I know who I already pick going into auditions.”

About 13 students are a part of this semester’s FNL event. The group has formed a close bond, Dilts said, and everyone is putting more effort than usual into the show’s success.

He said the skits include a lot of diversity.

“I really want to hit multiple types of humor,” Dilts said.

Dilts hopes more students, after watching this semester’s show, will want to become a part of future productions of FNL.

Tickets are \$5 and go on sale next week. The money collected will go to the local Food for the Hungry drive.

“The Matchmaker” Takes the Stage

By Maddie Cogan and Abbi Brown

The MVNU Theatre department will perform “The Matchmaker,” directed by Keely Heyl, this weekend.

“The Matchmaker,” a play set in 1884, follows the life of a local matchmaker who is hired by a wealthy merchant to find him a wife.

This comedy, written by Pulitzer Prize winning author Thornton Wilder, was the inspiration for the hit musical “Hello, Dolly!”

Set in New York at the turn of the 19th century, the play contains themes still relevant to modern audiences.

“Even though there are faults in the characters, there are also truths that the audience can connect with,” sophomore Dean Klunzinger said.

Klunzinger is a triple major in history, integrated social studies education and political science. “The Matchmaker” is Klunzinger’s first play with MVNU. He will be playing Ambrose Kemper and Rudolph.

“I connect with Ambrose because he is a go-getter,” Klunzinger said. “He knows what he wants and he is going to get it.”

The play has a light-hearted tone, which will leave the audience inspired.

“The play encourages you to go off on a limb and have an adventure,” Klunzinger said. “It is important that we see the world around us.”

Assistant Professor of Drama Ryan Long said it is important to have plays on campus.

“Plays have been around for thousands of years and are part of the storytelling tradition that is integral to our human experience,” Long said.

Along with the storytelling tradition, Long wants to equip students for their future.

“Plays provide our students who are looking to use theatre in their future careers an opportunity to develop their skills, both onstage and off,” Long said.

“The Matchmaker” opened last weekend. Performances will continue tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at Thorne Performance Hall.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children under 18 and those with a military ID or MVNU ID.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go online to theatre.mvnu.edu.

“The play encourages you to go off on a limb and have an adventure.”

~Sophomore Dean Klunzinger

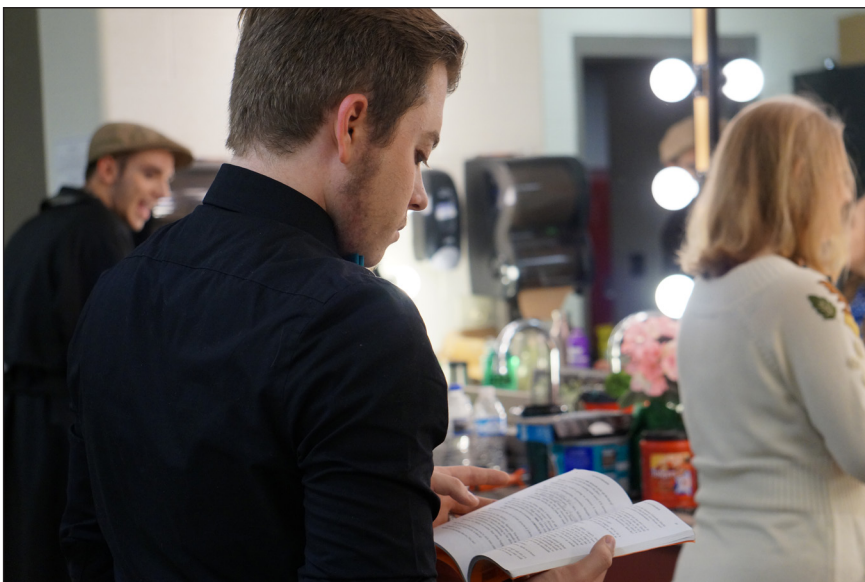


Photo by Michaela Hughes

Freshman Richie Johns practices his lines one last time before dress rehearsal.



Photo by Michaela Hughes

Junior Sarah Fanning puts finishing touches on her makeup before dress rehearsal.



Senior John Thompkins works out on the new punching bags in the cardio room in Ariel Arena.

Photo by Becca Maddux

Makeover for the fitness

MVNU upgraded much of the equipment in the Ariel Arena. The cardio rooms feature new bicycles, six heavy punching bags, a stepper, treadmills, two rowers, ellipticals, and the old free weights, squat racks, old bench presses, stretch bands, and a new layout.

Students said the upgrades were sorely needed because the equipment was in disrepair.

“Some machines were completely broken and unusable,” junior

Director of Athletics Aaron Quinn said the new equipment was

“We tried to upgrade all aspects of the weight room and fitness



Students are putting plenty of miles on the new treadmills.

Photo by Becca Maddux

A workout program designed for Body and Soul

By Michaela Hughes

Student Life has created a new Wellness Program to help students develop a healthy rhythm by balancing their physical, spiritual and academic wellbeing.

The program focuses on creating healthy routines for students such as participating in the Sabbath and other activities that will help build balanced lives and, ultimately, a stronger connection with God. Completion of the program is worth five chapel credits.

Students involved in the Wellness Program must create a daily routine that includes an exercise schedule, nutrition plan and self-care goals. Students' wellness plan should include their personal goals as well as set aside specific times for Sabbath activities.

Although part of the focus is on physical exercise and health, the program is intended to go deeper and enrich spiritual lives as well.

Senior urban ministry major Ashton Dupler believes the physical and spiritual beings go hand in hand.

“If we can't take care of our bodies, how are we practicing the faith?” Dupler said.

Dupler suggested that if Christians aren't properly taking care of

their health, they can't serve the way God desires them to. He believes addressing pressures and stress will have a positive result on spiritual life.

“Working constantly without acknowledging our limits” often diminishes the ability to serve, he said. “It is important that we do not run ourselves ragged,” Dupler said.

Dupler works out regularly but is not signed up for the Wellness Program this semester.

Senior nursing major Drew England said the program is working for him.

“It keeps me accountable and constantly evaluating how much time I'm spending in the Word,” England said.

MVNU theology professor Joseph Augello believes this program shows how God meant for the physical and spiritual being to connect.

“God said if you are a Christian, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit,” Augello said. “So, shouldn't we be regarding our bodies in a very sacred way because we are housing God?”

Augello believes that Student Life is helping students honor God, and see themselves the way God does.

The program requires students to work out at least three times a

week, with a minimum of 30 minutes of exercise, anything from walking to running.

Students also are required to complete a written report presented each semester. The report includes examples of activities completed and how they relate to the program.

Students are required to complete a written report each semester, with each report due at the end of the semester. The purpose of the report is to show and worship God. Activities include journaling, praying, and other spiritual practices.

This aspect of the program is designed to help students, within their limits, keep company with God. The program is approved by Student Life and the faculty.

Students must then submit a written report that shows their progress. The report is completed and submitted to their chapel report.

The Wellness Program

ess center

ena fitness rooms over the summer. g bags, medicine and weighted balls, a stair eights. The weight room provides three new ut for more space. e old equipment was badly degraded and in

unior Malone Weghorst said. nt will enhance students' workouts. tness centers to provide individuals a better experience with reliable and durable equipment," Quinn said. Although students are happy with the new equipment, a common concern is that there are not enough treadmills.

Sophomore nursing major Alyssa Settle works out four times a week and said treadmills are the most popular cardio machines.

Many students "leave bitterly, and then constantly check back for an available treadmill," Settle said. "It's just very inconvenient."

All of the fitness rooms are getting heavy use this year, said assistant athletic director Paul McNeal.

"There is rarely a time when someone isn't in all three of our fitness facilities," he said.

ed for oul

m of 30 minutes of exercise, which could include ng and yoga to lifting weights and biking. equired to attend one of two Wellness Workshops ster. The workshops give students resources and s to participate in to ensure they are successful in

red to participate in Sabbath activities five times a activity being a minimum of four hours on one Sabbath activities is to create time to experience ctivities can include turning off social media, or meeting with a mentor.

rogram allows students to acknowledge their y with Jesus and trust that God is in control of to the official Wellness Program description Life.

n turn in five reports throughout the semester ess. Reports are due every two weeks. After the d, participants will have five chapel credits added t for the semester.

rogram has 50 participants for the first semester.



Photo by Danielle Zoellner

Daniel Luther strains through a final rep during his upper body workout early Wednesday morning in the weight room.



Photo by Becca Maddux

A sign advertises the new fitness center hours, including the controversial weight room hours.

Fitness fallout: New weight room hours spark campus controversy

By Taylor McMarlin

Joel Mott is NOT a morning person.

But at 5:40 a.m., he struggles out of bed, throws on some clothes and sticks his head under the running water in the sink.

"It helps me wake up," he says.

Then he gulps down a pre-workout drink and joins his friends to stretch before heading out to Ariel Arena for his daily workout.

Mott is part of the "6 a.m. Crew," a group of workout buddies who hit the weight room at 6 each morning to avoid the rush later in the day.

The weight room is closed every weekday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., specifically for athlete use. This time is set aside for athletes to work out without interference from non-athletes.

These new fitness room hours have generated a fair amount of controversy among students on campus.

As a member of the junior varsity basketball team, Mott is allowed in the weight room in the afternoons, but he often works out in the morning instead so he can lift with friends.

When he first heard about the new weight room hours, Mott said he "was pretty bummed."

But, he and the rest of the 6 a.m.



Photo by Danielle Zoellner

Members of the "6 a.m. Crew" (Daniel Luther, Guillermo Morales, Joel Mott, Ashton Dupler and Parker Price) meet at the gym to get started on their early morning workout.

Crew decided to make the best of it. Although the hours are inconvenient, he and his friends have been able to find time to work out.

"It was kind of a bummer, but it's not a big deal now because we are used to it," Mott said.

Senior urban ministry major Ashton Dupler joins the 6 a.m. Crew two to three times a week. Dupler said the school should find another way to cater to athletes.

Most students end up going to the weight room in the evening when the area reopens because they have classes early in the day and can't get in during the four-hour block when it is reserved for athletes.

Junior criminal justice major Leah Elicker works out three times a week on average, spending 20 minutes lifting weights and 20 minutes doing cardio. She likes the new equipment, but said the school "puts athletes on a higher plane than the rest of us."

She said it is unfair to close the

weight room exclusively for athletes.

"We are all students and we are all busy," Elicker said.

Students said the weight room gets especially busy from 5 to 7 p.m. Sometimes it is so crowded that students have a hard time completing their workouts.

Despite the inconvenience, some

students said they understand the new hours. Senior intercultural studies major Paige Hopper said it is good to give the athletes space to "do what they need to do."

Hopper said she usually works out in the evenings, so the new hours do not affect her.

But, "I understand why people get annoyed," she said. Like everyone else, Hopper is always trying to find the best time to work out, she said.

Junior biology pre-physical therapy major Lydia Shenk also gets to the weight room later in the day when it reopens to students.

Shenk said she understands it is important for athletes to have a time to work out together.

"I get it. The athletes are a big deal here," Shenk said.

But the inconvenience to everyone else is still an issue, she said.

"I understand it; I just don't like it," Shenk said.

becoming curious

“What if the key to our spiritual growth is not getting all the right answers, but discovering what the right questions might be and asking them? ”

~Author Casey Tygrett

By Jordyn Davis

Casey Tygrett, a religion major in the class of 2000, relishes the mystery in life.

Tygrett encourages others to embrace the unknown in his first full-length book, “Becoming Curious,” released earlier this year.

Tygrett is a teaching pastor at Heartland Community Church in Rockford, Illinois.

He says his time at MVNU developed a passion for preaching and a desire to lead and teach in the area of spiritual formation, something he relishes today.

Upon entering MVNU as a freshman, Tygrett remembers “thinking I had everything figured out,” as many young adults do. He encountered, however, people and situations that facilitated growth in many different aspects of his life: not only academic, but social and spiritual as well.

His plans, he explained, were “short-sighted,” and ignored some of the passions, hopes and dreams God had placed within him.

However, insights and experiences that came during his time at MVNU changed his goals and opened up paths he hadn’t previously considered. “I realized that God had so much more in mind for me than I knew,” he said.

Tygrett said he often learned “the hard way,” through experiences that were not always pleasant.

The wisdom he gained was the knowledge that God is gentle and intentional when we need Him to be, but also forceful when we need to be pushed and challenged. In those difficult, yet formative times, Tygrett said he relied on friendships that began at MVNU and are still a part of his life 17 years later, something he “wouldn’t trade for the world.”

Tygrett said that the friendships he made during his time at MVNU represent the crossroads between growth and development, friendship and joy, as well as hardship and struggle.

Tygrett’s advice for students is to leave room for mystery.

“Make plans? Yes! Set goals? Please! However,

make room for others and love the place where you are,” Tygrett said. “God is quite capable of entering into today if we look for him — if we wait for him.”

Tygrett’s new book, “Becoming Curious,” discusses the difference between waiting on God and becoming complacent.

The book began as a dare, when a writing coach challenged him to write 1,000 words a day and pointed out that in as little as a month, he would have enough content for a book. The consistent act of daily writing ended in a 192-page book. The book is available through Amazon in paperback or Kindle format.

“I started there, just letting the words flow, and in the process, the idea of curiosity as part of our spiritual formation bubbled to the surface,” he said.

After doing research, Tygrett learned that young children ask up to 400 questions per day, yet questioning tapers off dramatically as we age.

“When I hear Jesus say, ‘Unless you change and become like a child, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven,’ I wonder if He means become those 300 to 400 questions a day kind of kids?” Tygrett asked.

“The truth,” Tygrett said, “is that Jesus spent more time evoking people’s curiosity than He did reinforcing their concept of certainty.”

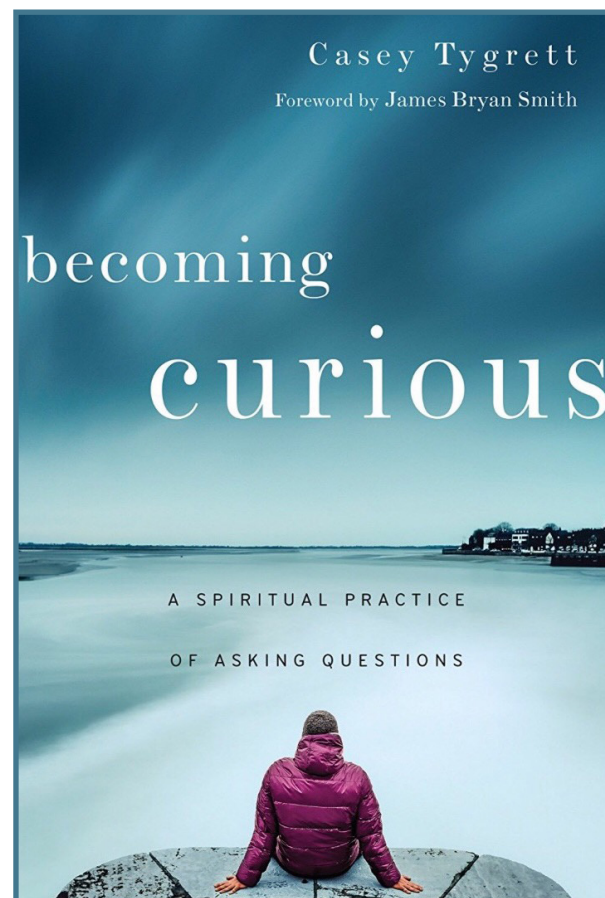
Tygrett began asking as many questions as he could.

“What if the key to our spiritual growth,” he asked, “is not getting all the right answers, but discovering what the right questions might be and asking them — even if they lead to more questions?”

In a society that has become fixed on



Casey Tygrett



correctness, ambiguity may be the start to reformation.

“The book deals with questions that Jesus asked or was asked, and how those questions come to us in the present day,” Tygrett said. Jesus’ questions can help us embrace identity, forgiveness and love, among many other aspects of our lives, he said.

Tygrett is currently working on a second book detailing how memories influence spiritual formation. It is set to be published in early 2019.

Tygrett is also the author of “The Jesus Rhythm,” a 25-page philosophy for life released in 2012. To connect with Tygrett, visit his website www.caseytygrett.com or follow him on twitter and Instagram @cktygrett.

Alive with Activity

for Homecoming Weekend

“ We remember and celebrate the days that have passed and point toward a vision for the future of MVNU. ”

~Travis Keller
Director of Alumni Relations

By Brooke Schnipke

Homecoming is a great time for students to connect with alumni, and this year's activities will cater to both parties.

Director of Alumni Relations Travis Keller encouraged students to reach out to the many alumni who will visit campus for this weekend's activities. Although current students may not know a lot of alumni, it's important to bridge that gap, Keller said.

All events are open for students, and students are encouraged to introduce themselves to alumni and engage in meaningful conversations.

"Foster Hall in Ariel Arena will be set up as a reception and social space where alumni and students can meet each other and interact," Keller said. "It is an open space where we will invite both students and alumni to enjoy snacks, drinks, music and a photo booth."

Homecoming weekend is a time to "celebrate the life of our university," Keller said.

"The weekend offers alumni the opportunity to see one another, reconnect with faculty and staff and interact with current students. We remember and celebrate the days that have passed and point toward a vision for the future of MVNU."

The weekend typically brings in alumni from around the country.

"Alumni return to MVNU to reconnect with one another, to visit faculty and staff members, and to participate in the life of campus. Alumni enjoy seeing how the campus has changed over the years and they particularly appreciate seeing a vibrant and active student body," Keller said.

A few of the activities planned for Homecoming weekend include the President's Prayer Breakfast, Homecoming chapel, men's and women's basketball games, the Queen's reception, a 5k walk/run led by the track and cross country teams, music department concerts, and the fall play, "The Matchmaker."

Keller said Homecoming is one particular weekend that both students and alumni don't want to miss.

"The campus is alive with lots of activities and many opportunities to enjoy the life of our community," Keller said.

For more information and a schedule of events, go online to homecoming.mvnu.edu.

HOMECOMING 2017

November 10-11

Schedule of Events

Friday, Nov. 11

- 8 a.m. — President's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:20 a.m. — Homecoming Chapel
- 5 p.m. — Women's basketball vs. Point Park
- 6-8 p.m. — Alumni Celebration (Foster Hall)
- 6:50 p.m. — Queen's Coronation
- 7:15 p.m. — Queen's Reception
- 7:30 p.m. — Men's basketball vs. Rio Grande
- 7:30 p.m. — Fall Play "The Matchmaker"

Saturday, Nov. 12

- 8:30-11:30 a.m. — Kids' activities
- 9 a.m. — Reunion brunch
- 10 a.m. — 5K Run/Walk + Cycling
- 10:30 a.m. — Class gatherings
- 11:30 a.m. — Campus tour
- 11:30 a.m. — Affinity Group Gatherings
- 1 p.m. — Music Department Concert
- 3 p.m. — Jazz Band Concert
- 3 p.m. — Women's basketball vs. Carlow
- 5 p.m. — Men's basketball game
- 7:30 p.m. — Fall Play "The Matchmaker"

Running & Rebounding



Photo by Gerod Harder

Sophomore Austin Jones dunks against Ohio University Lancaster.

By Eddie Dilts

As the 2017-18 basketball season is shaping up, the Cougars are hoping to focus on daily growth instead of outcome-driven goals.

Head Coach Jared Ronai is encouraging the team to have a “1-0 approach.”

“Our approach is to be 1-0 each and every day,” Ronai said. “We have to make 1-0 winning decisions that guide our preparation on and off the floor. This also means our coaching staff has to be intentional and purposeful with our young men.”

One of the biggest advantages this year is how well the team has bonded on and off the court.

This year’s team has “done an incredible job of growing together within our culture,” Ronai said. “I believe those relationships are going to help us have a very cohesive team chemistry which will be a big strength.”

The Cougars will still play in the similar fast-paced style that fans have seen before. Ronai said he wants people to be impressed with the Cougars’ effort and intensity, regardless of the outcome of a game.

“We want to emphasize rebounding and running, moving and sharing the ball on the offensive end, and disrupting teams with our effort and pressure on the defensive end of the floor,” Ronai said.

The team has 10 players returning, including lone senior Joe Schmitz, a strong outside shooter who hit 48.5 percent of his threes last season. Schmitz is a guard who played significant minutes in the Cougars backcourt last year.



Photo by Gerod Harder

The Cougars huddle in the locker room before their home opener.

The team features a core group of juniors, including Brett Vipperman, Jeremiah Roberts, Todd Entenmann, Emmett Fraley and Jordi Mas.

Vipperman led the team in scoring last year with 14.4 points per game. He was second in rebounds with 5.1 per game.

Ronai noted that “every returner has a great feel for our culture and system of play. This is going to allow each of them to impact our program in their own respective positive ways.”

Incoming freshmen include Jevon Knox, Gage Barone, Alex Johnson, Jay Joseph, David Delahunty, and Tyrice Walker Jr who “have done a terrific job growing and improving.” All six have the potential to impact the team, Ronai said.

The men are 2-1 going into tonight’s game against Rio Grande.

Enhancing the FAN EXPERIENCE

By Eddie Dilts

The Athletic Department has partnered with a dozen community sponsors to raise money for its new “Championship Drive” program.

Championship Drive is “a culmination of ideas” to assist the University’s teams, said Paul McNeal, coordinator of athletic department development.

The Championship Drive initiative, announced in July, helps raise money to support teams that qualify for national tournament competition. Sponsors help cover costs for travel, meals, hotel stays and other related expenses.

“One of the most amazing experiences a student-athlete can have is competing at a national tournament,” MVNU Director of

Athletics Aaron Quinn said in a press release.

The Drive began with the department’s new philosophy, MVNUnited, which promotes unity within the athletic department, the campus and the community.

“Unity begins with community,” McNeal said.

Wendy’s, Mount Vernon Grand Hotel, Mohican Sports Medicine, Karhl and Company Insurance, First-Knox National Bank, Comfort Inn, Crossfit 1808, Options Plus Furniture, Knox Community Hospital, Domino’s, Revere Roofing Company and CES Credit Union are all partners with the Drive, meaning they have exchanged money and prizes for promotion and advertising.

This promotion and advertising includes T-shirt giveaways, business mentions during games, the opportunity to set up an information

table near the gate, mentions on WNZR, banners in Ariel Arena and the baseball and softball fields, and the opportunity to partner with the Athletic Department to sponsor specific games.

Partnering for a game means more fan participation, with chances to win prizes and other giveaways, McNeal said. MVNU students are likely to see shooting competitions and other promotional events as this year. These events will be most evident during men’s basketball games.

McNeal began contacting area businesses this summer to set up the Championship Drive partnerships.

“It’s just been a blessing,” McNeal said. “The work we are doing here in the Athletic Department has been so well received throughout the community.”

Lady Cougars take the floor with ENERGY

By Eddie Dilts

The Lady Cougars Basketball team is looking to start stronger and continue off the momentum they had last year.

Head Coach Amanda Short, who is heading into her third season, wants to “take advantage of non-conference games” played early in the season to get ready for the Crossroads League play that will dominate the schedule in January and February.

Last year’s Lady Cougars struggled early in the season before a mid-season turnaround that saw them win five of their last seven conference games.

This year’s team has stronger offensive capabilities than previous years, which Short contributes to key players like Sierra Basista, Natalie Carpenter, Taylor Gregory and Elizabeth Fee.

Basista and Carpenter “are both good defenders and strong shooters,” Short said. The two senior guards both are approaching a career milestone of 1,000 points.

Freshman Taylor Gregory also is “a strong threat offensively,” Short said, and Fee is capable of getting a lot of points in transition.

With that kind of lineup, Short said the team will look to push the ball more and play at a faster pace.

“We have a lot of people who can score,” Short said. In past years, she said, the team’s strength was in its defense.

However, the team is facing struggles with depth due to various injuries.

Among those out for injuries is junior guard Rachel Parks, who is out for the season with a torn ACL. Parks was expected to be a key contributor. Sophomore Nicolette DeVincentis, freshmen Nora Hopkins, Hailey Peters and Elizabeth Fee also have been sidelined with injuries.

Despite the injuries the team is facing, defense is still a big focus.

“The desire is to now play a full court defense with some jump and trap, a focus on pressure and an overall faster pace,” Short said.

Short is aiming to finish with a record of .500 or better, an achievement the team has not had since 2011-12 season.

She also wants to see the team make it into the conference tournament after being denied in a three-way tie last year. The top eight teams in the Crossroads League move into the post-season conference tournament.

Short has a staff this year of three people, including her husband Nathan who is returning as an assistant coach for the second year. Assistant Coaches Breckley Erny and Natalie Thomas have joined the staff for the first year.

The staff’s focus this season is to point out mistakes as they happen so they can be fixed right away.

Short said she expects her players to work hard and respond to instruction.

“The team has a lot of energy, a lot of heart and a lot of passion,” she said.



Photo by Gerod Harder
Senior Sierra Basista shoots the ball against Indiana University Kokomo.



The 2016-17 MVNU Women's Basketball Team:
(back row) Coach Amanda Short, Cassidy Cain, Nora Hopkins, Hailey Peters, Taylor Gregory, Rachel Perry, Madison Near, assistant Breckley Erny; (front row) assistant Nathan Short, Nicolette DeVincentis, Landen Collins, Rachel Parks, Sierra Basista, Sophie Kinnard, Natalie Carpenter, Elizabeth Fee, Dani Ellerbrock, assistant Natalie Thomas.

“The team has a lot of energy, a lot of heart and a lot of passion.”

~Head Coach Amanda Short



Madi Moore



Regina Rudder



Danielle Darkow



Kamryn Courtright



Caylee Rosa



Hannah Michael

Women's soccer seniors

"Selfless Servants"

By Anna Chrysler

The MVNU women's soccer team's senior class redefined what it means to be a teammate during their last season as Lady Cougars.

"They put their sisters' needs before themselves both on and off the field."

Assistant Coach Rick Seiffert (Papa Coach) called this year's senior class "selfless servants," who took on leadership roles and made each player feel important to the success of the team.

As a result, the chemistry on the team has been among the best he has seen in his nine years at MVNU.

"As we all know, there is no team success without the team being unified. We credit that unity this year, to this senior class," he said.

Those seniors are Madi Moore, Hannah Michael, Regina Rudder, Caylee Rosa, Danielle Darkow and Kamryn Courtright.

Moore, goalkeeper for the Lady Cougars and criminal justice and psychology

majors, plans to attend Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy after graduation. Moore said to take advice from upperclassmen because they've been through it all.

"Live it up. Take it all in. Before you know it, you're done. Most importantly, have fun," Moore said.

Darkow agreed, and encouraged her teammates to pour their all into everything they do.

"Enjoy it, and put your heart into it because it is an awesome experience that should not be taken for granted. But don't make it your everything," Darkow said. "Keep your priorities straight because like Coach says, 'You're a person a lot longer than you're a soccer player.'"

Head Coach Daniel Seiffert said the seniors leave behind a "terrific legacy."

They were "fantastic teammates who put their sisters' needs before themselves. Their leadership, their love for others, and their drive is going to be greatly missed," he said.

Men's soccer seniors

"Committed to the team"

By Anna Chrysler

The Mount Vernon Nazarene University men's soccer team is losing five seniors following the fall season, each with his own significant role, memories and advice to future students and athletes.

First year Head Coach Zach Ganzberg emphasized the seniors' impact on the men's soccer program this season.

"I want to commend all of our seniors on being adaptable, motivated, committed to the team and our core values, and staying faithful, even during adversity," Ganzberg said.

The five seniors are Adam Miller, Brock Bishop, Aaron Russell, Mark Parsell and Joshua Alexander.

Miller has played a key role all four years of his collegiate career as the starting goalkeeper.

"Put your best effort into everything and enjoy every second," Miller said.

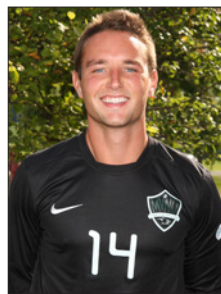
Bishop will miss the little details the most: the five-hour bus rides home on a weeknight when his legs are sore, the celebrations after an overtime win, early-



Adam Miller



Aaron Russell



Brock Bishop



Mark Parsell



Joshua Alexander

season team trips, but will miss his teammates most of all.

"The brotherhood you experience during your four years here is unlike anything else," Bishop said.

Bishop embraced the grind as a student-athlete, and hopes that others will do the same.

"It's how you handle the lows that will define your

career here. Work hard, love your brothers, and always bring the juice," Bishop said.

Alexander said his favorite memory is traveling with the team.

"I'm obviously going to miss all the guys and the feeling after a big win or goal, but I am also going to miss the long bus rides and preseason workouts, oddly enough. I'm just going to miss everything," Alexander said.

Ganzberg is thankful for each of the seniors' role in establishing the foundation, culture and philosophy that will become the future of the men's soccer team at MVNU.

"I have no doubt, from the strength of character I've seen from each of these seniors, that they will be successful in whatever endeavors they decide to pursue. We will sorely miss our seniors," Ganzberg said.

For complete stories on the men's and women's soccer seniors and their favorite MVNU memories, go to the Viewer website, lakeholmviewer.com.



Ashley Gingerich



Alyson Near



Mariah Kick



Kelsey Bryte

Volleyball teammates leave as “Forever Friends”

By Eddie Dilts

Four Lady Cougars finished up their careers with MVNU volleyball this season after a loss to top-seeded Marian University in the Crossroads League Tournament.

All of the seniors reflected upon their four years at MVNU with pride. “Playing sports at MVNU has been the most amazing college experience I have ever had,” Bryte said. “Being a part of this team gave me automatic friends as a freshman and forever friends as my senior year comes to a close.”

Bryte ended the season with 382 kills, and finished with a career total of 1,068.

“Amazing” is how many of the seniors summed up their time on the volleyball team.

“It’s been incredible. Amazing coach, amazing teammates. I’m beyond blessed to have had the opportunity to play here,”

said libero Ashley Gingerich.

Gingerich reached a milestone this season with 785 digs, finishing with a career total of 2,120 digs.

Middle hitter Mariah Kick also said playing for the Lady Cougars has been “an amazing experience.”

Kick is thankful to have a team and coach that supports her every day.

“Not everyone gets to experience sports on a collegiate level, but I’m thankful I had the opportunity,” Kick said

Middle hitter Alyson Near credited her “unforgettable experience” with the Cougars not only to playing the sport she loves, but to the memories she formed with the team.

Her coaches and teammates have “cultivated an environment that holds God first as they strive to bring us experiences that we won’t forget,” Near said. “We have gone places we never dreamt we would with the people we love most.”



Darian Pacula



Katie Driggs



Rebekah Mullins



Alexis Kandel



Kayla Davies

“Terrific leaders” on and off the course

By Matt McKenzie

The 2017 cross country season began with a unique challenge, when the team was involved in a car accident in August.

With this challenge, head coach Chip Wilson said he was thankful for the leadership this senior class provided.

“This senior class has been challenged and they have seen the positives and negatives that come with collegiate athletics,” Wilson said.

The senior class has provided leadership and encouragement all season long, he said.

“The maturity I have seen in this group is

tremendous. They have been terrific leaders on and off the course,” Wilson said.

The 2017 senior class includes Darian Pacula, Katie Driggs, Alexis Kandel, Rebekah Mullins and Kayla Davies. Davies is a third-year college student who will graduate early. Team manager Caroline Phillips, who ran as a freshman, also will graduate this year.

Pacula is the only senior on the men’s team this year.

Pacula said he has especially enjoyed being part of something with people who showed the same interest in running.

“It was an opportunity for different people to

come together with a similar interest,” Pacula said.

Driggs said the thing that stands out the most is the family aspect of cross country.

“It means being part of another family that supports you and journeys along with you when you’re away from home and when things are hard,” Driggs said.

Her favorite memory is the feelings she gets when everyone returns from summer break.

“We all meet for dinner after move-in and you can just hear the excitement of getting to catch up with everyone and meeting new teammates,” Driggs said.

To read more about the seniors and their favorite cross country memories, visit the Viewer website, lakeholmviewer.com.

Former MVNU storyteller has A Story of His Own

By Maddie Cogan

For two decades Dave Parsons had “the best view of all the significant moments” in MVNU sports history. The former Sports Information Director left MVNU in 2014 to pursue a career with Donatos as a field marketing manager.

This weekend, Parsons will be inducted to the Cougar Wall of Fame to honor his 21 years of telling the stories of the University’s coaches and athletes.

“It was a privilege to be the storyteller for Cougar athletics for 21 years,” Parsons said. “The athletes worked hard, and I got to tell their story.”

As SID, Parsons said that his job was about “building relationships with great people.”

“Truly, it’s all about the people. The quality of the people here is amazing,” Parsons said.

The sporting events “just happened in between,” he said.

Parsons said he is humbled to be inducted to the Wall of Fame along with “so many great players and people who have a great history.”

Parsons came to MVNU as a shy, apprehensive freshman in 1990.

“I knew no one,” he said, but “it was a safe place. There weren’t cliques. You fit in with everyone.”

Somehow, the quiet kid who wasn’t even sure MVNU was right for him made friends, became more social and eventually was elected freshman class president.

He stayed on campus the summer after his freshman year, working as part of the paint crew, and “that’s when I really became part of the MVNU family,” he said.

Over the summer, professors and other staff would invite him to their homes for cookouts and take him to lunch after Sunday morning church.

He got involved in the athletic department as an undergrad as well, volunteering to help with game-day tasks, run the scoreboard and line judge for volleyball. He also worked in the cafeteria and after graduation served as an RD for Spruce Apartments.

Parsons also was hired as Assistant Sports Information Director after graduation, and became the University’s first full-time SID in 1998. He later completed a master’s degree in human resources management at MVNU and taught sports management classes at the University.

He also has run in two Boston Marathons.



Dave Parsons

“It was a privilege to be the storyteller for Cougar athletics for 21 years.”

~Former SID Dave Parsons

Football: The pros and cons

By Anna Chrysler and Maddie Cogan

The possibility of adding a football program at MVNU is creating plenty of conversation across campus.

A football feasibility task force met for the second time on Oct. 27 to discuss the possibility of adding the sport to campus. So far, the campus has expressed “real interest — and caution,” MVNU President Dr. Henry Spaulding said.

The discussion so far reflects “the mood” of the campus and “the seriousness of the decision,” Spaulding said.

Reactions have been genuine, with people showing excitement, but also asking hard questions about cost and what a football program might do to the MVNU culture.

Spaulding also has been forward about concerns that a football program would “introduce a type of athlete we haven’t had here” in the past.

Members of the task force heard about comments from colleague at other institutions which added football but “wish they had never done it.”

Many students said they also are hesitant about how football would affect campus culture.

Senior Ashley Gingerich said a football program, although a nice thought, could bring too many people to the University for the wrong reasons.

“I would love the football game experience,” Gingerich said, “but it would be up to the coaches to recruit players for quality rather than talent.”

Junior Christian Bacon said he would go to football games, but still questions if it’s a good idea.

“There is the possibility of losing the current culture on campus because of the typical aggressive stereotype that comes with football,” Bacon said.

The expense is also a concern to students, who have questioned the cost for scholarships, increased housing, equipment, travel, coaches and more.



Spaulding has said a program will cost \$400,000 a year to operate.

“I’m not sure if it is worth the cost,” Bacon said.

Still, many students are excited about the possibility of football.

Carl Jones Jr. said a football program would increase revenue, student population and athletic diversity.

“As long as you have a coaching staff supporting and mentoring athletes through the expectations, a football team can have a positive influence on the campus,” Jones said. “Although it’s a more aggressive sport, the positives outweigh the negatives.”

Senior Kendra Wengerd agreed, pointing out that any sports team “can face the same risks of bringing a negative culture.”

The difference, Wengerd said, is “the football team’s influence would just be on a larger scale.”