

# THE VIEWER

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Illustration by Daniel Skrzypchak





Staff members at WNZR enjoyed another successful fundraiser this year with Lifeline 2022, raising more than \$76,000 in pledges.

## Another Successful Lifeline for WNZR

By Colin Berg

As the semester wraps up at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, WNZR gets ready for their annual event Lifeline. According to WNZR Director of Broadcasting Joe Rinehart, “Lifeline is WNZR’s annual fundraiser. It helps us maintain an active and vibrant radio station and digital presence throughout the year.” From posters to flyers to training meetings, Lifeline is a way for the community to donate to the station as a “thank you” for encouraging them with great music that inspires them to keep living in Christ. Rinehart stated that, “Money raised in Lifeline makes up about 50 percent of our operating expenses for the year. It provides funds for our student leadership staff during the school year and summer and helps us to have an assistant station manager and

office manager.”

Lifeline is so important not only to the staff but to the listeners as well, because it gives people hope to guide them through the stormy oceans. According to Rinehart, “It reminds us that we can approach each day abounding in hopes, because we know that God has something great planned for us, hope that’s grounded in the knowledge that Christ overcame death itself; that hope should be contagious and visible in how we see in our lives.”

The Lifeline is an opportunity to bring people together in the name of Jesus and to keep hope alive. As of now, Lifeline has raised \$76,804, surpassing their original goal of \$65,000.

The students and staff who were a part of this journey are very grateful to have this opportunity to see their works of spreading God’s love and hope to their  
(Continued on Page 12)

# THE VIEWER

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Senior graphic design students with work recently featured at Schnormeier Gallery are, from left, Madison Therrien, Lily Sartori, Crews Varner, Riley Moody, Tjai Martin, Sydney Moon, Emily Wilson, and Liz Pound.

## Graphic Design Students Strut Their Stuff

**By Emily Wilson**

The senior graphic design exhibit, known as “Momentum,” was on display from March 28 to April 8 at the Schnormeier Gallery in downtown Mount Vernon. An opening reception for the seniors was April 1 for participating seniors Riley Moody, Tjai Martin, Emily

Wilson, Liz Pound, Crews Varner, Madison Therrien, Lily Sartori and Sydney Moon.

Tjai Martin, a senior that displayed her works in the show, described it as a “time consuming process but so worth it in the end.” Their works have accumulated from junior year all the way up to their final semester.

During the reception, they were also surrounded by their friends and family in which to proudly present their works.

Momentum is defined as the “impetus gained by a moving object.” The 2022 seniors were inspired by the continuous evolution of graphic design and what that means to them as a

class.

They have been shaped by the design world and have been asking what it could look like as they enter the real world. Each one of them have learned to enhance their skills and understanding of design in a way that allows them to collaborate and move forward.

# MVNU Campus vs. Mother Nature

By Anna Dudgeon

The classic battle of Mother Nature against human-kind raged this year on the campus of Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

When asked about the challenge of keeping the grounds clean and cleared this winter, Corey Hitchman, MVNU groundskeeper, stated that "The ice was a struggle and more dangerous than the snow . . . [it wasn't] something I'm used to seeing." All things considered, however, Hitchman

was quoted saying, "This winter was not as bad as previous winters."

Hitchman has a staff of four full time workers, however, that were able to combat the ice effectively. In addition to dealing with ice, Hitchman commented that as a team, the staff had made great progress when it came to "[improving] the community fields and sports fields and [learning] more about maintaining the turf field."

Despite the fact that staffing issues have been a

prevalent issue, Hitchman was "thankful and happy to say that we have had zero turnover in regard to our full-time employees." In fact, in the summer months, Hitchman has a crew of six student workers who pitch in to help around campus as well as volunteers from local churches and Goodwill. "I [would] estimate about 100 hours of volunteer help" Hitchman added. Students and the community are eager to lend a helping hand, echoing the values of MVNU: To Seek To Learn

is to Seek to Serve.

Even with all of this additional help in keeping campus safe and kept up, however, Hitchman still is facing the ever-present struggle against the gophers that plague the campus.

"I am in an endless and frustrating war," Hitchman said. "It is a challenge . . . and they are currently winning the battle." Hitchman added he had no intention of giving up anytime soon.

All things considered, Hitchman said "[it] was a good year."

# Nerf Club More Than Just Fun and Games

By Jacob Glaze

"Nerf Club is an MVNU competitive club that comes together once a week to fellowship and play Nerf," as the current president of Nerf Club, Jacob Wilcox, explained, "The group meets every week on Friday in Arial Arena from 9 p.m. – midnight and plays a variety of game modes that cater to the students."

"We are a group of students who love to hang out and make new friends while playing this game," Wilcox explained. "This club has been proven to improve the mental health of the many MVNU students who are regular attendees."

One of the current vice

presidents, Aubrey Shaffer, shared that, "It's also a very mixed batch of people, so it's a great place to get to know people from each year and all sorts of majors. In the spring of 2021, the club received a grant of \$500 to buy Nerf guns so that students who couldn't afford a gun of their own were still able to play." Shaffer added that the club stays connected online throughout the week using a social media form normally used for video gaming called "Discord."

The club currently averages 25 students a week. To begin each night, the leadership will "start off with prayer and upcoming events, as well as discussing game types," Shaffer

explained. "Player safety is also a concern amongst the members of the club. We want a limit of 125 FPS [feet per second]. Anything over that speed begins to hurt. The Nerf brand will typically avoid going over this limit. It was being cracked down the previous year [shooting strength] because some people were leaving from bullets causing real pain."

The first president, Ian Moyer, explained how the club came to be. "When I went to MVNU, one thing I really wanted to concentrate on was the social aspect. I know that people get too focused on their studies and don't take the breaks they need. That summer [2019],

I bought a bunch of Nerf guns and just started shooting people. I would convince people to join because I could offer my own guns. Lots of people were going to Walmart themselves to get their own. When we started, it was just the Oakwood boys on Fridays. But it got to the point that there were so many people that wanted to join in; but couldn't be in Oakwood, so I started looking to make it a club."

Wilcox explained that as the group began to grow, they moved out of Oakwood and into the Chapel building where they then got too big for the facility. They realized that the group needed to become

**(Continued on Page 6)**





By Allison Prouty

MVNU's Student Government Association welcomes next academic year's class councils and appointed leadership. Students could vote for their class council from Feb. 15-17.

Class councils consist of a class president, administrative director, class ministries director and an events director. Current freshmen, sophomores and juniors vote on their representatives for next year.

The candidate with the most votes wins the position. The SGA constitution says that students who wish to run for class council positions must be students who have lived on campus for at least one semester. Students also must have at least a 2.3 GPA or higher, support MVNU's mission, and the MVNU community and lifestyle guidelines.

Next year's sophomore class will be represented by Evan Hodkinson as class president, Jadon Bird as class ministries director and Lilian Volk as their events director. There will be a

new election in fall 2022 for the administrative director position.

The junior class elected Logan Kazelman as class president, Colton Sisler as administrative director, Zane Risser as class minis-

tries director and Rebecca Bash as their events director.

The seniors voted in Bailey Plott as class president and Hannah Brandenstein as their events director. There will be a new election in fall 2022 for their admin-

istrative director and ministries director positions.

Elections are held in the fall for the newest freshman class.

The appointed positions are made up of an administrative chairperson, media chairperson, vice president of marketing and an events chairperson. These positions are decided by an interviewing and voting process within the SGA. Students apply to these positions, and if selected are interviewed by a board of three outgoing SGA members, the Director of Campus Life (Tiffany Van Dame) and one other faculty member.

After the interview process is finished, only the outgoing SGA members cast votes to decide on the appointed positions.

Maggie Little was chosen to be the administrative chairperson, Olivia Allen was appointed to be the media chairperson, Gracie Middaugh will be the VP of marketing, and Zoe Bricker will be the events chairperson.

# Candidates Elected To Lead Class Councils



## Nerf Club Takes Over MVNU Campus

**(Continued from Page 4)** a club so that they could receive funding to help support the events. The group commonly referred to themselves as "Nerfwood" as a play-on-word because of its conception in Oakwood dorm-- making up the majority of its population for its first few semesters. The group since then has moved to just being called "Nerf Club." Swisher shared that since then, the "group has moved from the relatively competitive group it once was to a light-hearted group."

When Wilcox was asked what he hopes for the

future of Nerf Club, "I have a desire to make this club's influence stretch beyond campus and maybe pull in youth groups from churches around Mount Vernon," he said. "I also have plans of beginning a pre-Nerf Bible study that will help grow these students in relationship with others and the Lord. My dreams are for this group to become leaders and influential people who can develop their faith into maturity and growth while also bringing out the kid in each individual."

Twice now, once during the Fall 2021 and the Spring 2021 semesters, the club

had the opportunity to host a tournament. Wilcox explained that he's an "event planner at heart." He looked over the budget and saved money where he knew he could. He obtained a cheap deal with Dominos and ordered pizza for the events and developed posters to advertise them across campus.

The first-place team then won gift cards, and second place received boxes of candy. Wilcox, Shaffer, and Swisher plan on having another event this semester, but it will look quite different from the tournament-styled events in the

past.

Wilcox confirmed that Nerf club's leadership will be looking intently for a new leader to take on the group to keep it going after the three graduate this upcoming school year. Part of this plan is for Shaffer and Swisher to have potential candidates shadow them before taking the positions themselves.

Wilcox hits home with a statement that encompasses what the leadership hopes for Nerf club; "Every person needs to have a little fun and release the stress from their life. For us, it's Nerf or nothing."



## Strong Relationships Formed Through Lunch Buddies

By Allison Prouty

The CoSMO group Lunch Buddies lets MVNU students help local elementary school students reach their potential through mentorship.

Logan Kazelman, the Lunch Buddies CoSMO group leader, says the goal of Lunch Buddies is to “create meaningful relationships with students at the elementary level and show students the love that Jesus shows each and every one

of us.” He feels very passionate about this ministry, saying that he was inspired to lead it because of “the rewarding nature of inspiring others to pour into students who are in need of a consistent person in their life. It is truly amazing how God uses each of our lunch buddies to do good in a student’s life.”

This year, 20 MVNU students mentored approximately 25 elementary school students each semester. Students spend an

hour meeting with their student; they spend a half hour talking over lunch and a half hour playing on playground together. While they talk, the MVNU student checks on how the student is doing academically and encourages them to excel in their schoolwork. Another way they show the students love is by giving them small gifts. Kazelman says that “The reason we give gifts is because some of the students might not receive gifts at home. For

example, this semester, each MVNU student has assembled an Easter basket and given it to their lunch buddy for Easter.”

To get involved, MVNU students should contact Logan Kazelman (logkazelman@mail.mvnu.edu), the Campus Ministries office, or find flyers around campus. Lunch Buddies meets for one hour a week, and the day students go to the elementary school is dependent on the schedule of the MVNU student.

## Inspiration Shared at Spring Revival

By MacKenzie Holder

During the week of March 28, spring revival was hosted on Mount Vernon Nazarene University’s campus. Students gathered in the chapel to celebrate the theme of sacred time and sacred spaces. The week was full of student-led worship services and speakers. Spring revival 2022 included four different services along with a worship night. Speakers during spring revival included Sarah Meek, Scott Sharpes, Noah Robbins, and Joseph Hurst.

Robbins talked about spring revival and where the idea of sacred time and sacred spaces came from. He then explained how he and the committee came



about this idea. He stated, “We were looking around campus and how much we love this community, how we are shaped by it and the

friendships we’ve made. We also noticed there was something lacking in our attitude that we are missing out on some sacredness

within us.” Robbins continued to share about this theme, stating, “We noticed that there was a hole in the way we approach life and chapel. There is something that is lost, and that is where I am standing -- with the lack of something, a hole I can’t figure out how to fill.”

Students walked through this journey together during spring revival trying to figure out how to fill that void and hole that many students are constantly feeling. Through chapel services and worship nights, students gathered together to be there for each other on this journey and allowed themselves to know that we don’t have to have everything figured out.

By Henry Shobert

The “Hola” CoSMO (Community and Service Ministry Opportunities) group is one that serves the underserved, growing Latino community residing in Knox County. The group assembles on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:20 to 7:20 p.m. at various local churches in Mount Vernon to assist Latino children with their studies. The group is led by junior Ryan O’Donnell.

O’Donnell discussed his role as leader of the group and the inspiration he received to take on the position. He explained, “Todd Risser (associate pastor at First Church of the Nazarene) reached out to MVNU with a growing need of tutors willing to help serve the Latino community. I saw it as a great opportunity to help kids in need and wanted to take full advantage of it. This project reaches a good number of families in the community so it can really leave a lasting and positive impact.” O’Donnell continued, describing how the group works. He said, “It’s a relatively simple process. Everyone shows up and is assigned a kid to work with. Things can be tough because of language barriers; however, as you get to know the kid you’re working with and get acquainted with them, it really builds chemistry and makes it easier for you to help them. Though people worry

# “Hola” Serving Local Latino Community

sometimes that they won’t be able to help with math or whatever, the kids are happy to receive assistance or encouragement in any way they can get. Just being there is huge.” O’Donnell wanted to encourage people to continue to come out and help, saying “The kids need assistance in a variety of studies, so the more tutors we can gather the better. It’s really nice to see people bond with the kids

and give them support that they really need. I hope that this group and project can continue to thrive.”

Sophomore Luke Modesto, discussed his experience with Hola. He said, “Hola was really an eye-opening experience for me. Witnessing firsthand the way the language barrier impacts the educational experience is crazy. It’s really amazing what we take for granted when it comes

to our schooling and education.” He elaborated on his time with some of the kids, explaining, “I feel that I had a positive impact on them and was happy to work with them. I enjoy doing what I can to help others. Some of the kids I worked with struggled with math, so I was glad to be able to work through that with them. The amount of people that came to help was pretty impressive, so the kids are definitely benefiting from this project.”

Freshman Gabe Wolf had very similar things to say. He remarked, “I got to help kids with a variety of subjects, and it was fun for me to be able to touch back on some of the things I learned a long time ago. It was interesting to see how well I could remember everything and be able to reiterate it to the kids. It was really overall a good experience.”

The “Hola” CoSMO group meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:20 to 7:20 p.m. at various local churches in Mount Vernon. Students and anyone interested in supporting the project are encouraged to come out and help.

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**“ . . . the kids are happy to receive assistance or encouragement in any way they can get. Just being there is huge.”**

**-- Ryan O’ Donnell**

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# Better Together

By Anna Dudgeon

Mount Vernon Nazarene University's motto is To Seek To Learn is to Seek To Serve. One way students are able to live out this principle is through CoSMO (Community and Service Ministry Opportunities) groups.

One specific CoSMO group, Better Together, which meets once a week, orients itself around kids in the community who are on the autistic spectrum or possess learning disabilities.

Brittany Miller, an elementary education and intervention specialist major, stated, "I've loved the opportunity to put [what] I'm learning in my classes into use as we plan activities and interact with parents and the kids."

Miller, along with Obadi-ah Kurtz, another student,

plan out the Better Together events and organize it for the community.

"I think of CoSMO groups as an opportunity to give back to the community," Miller said, reflecting on the purpose of CoSMO groups. Seeking to meet a need in the community and exemplify Christian values is a goal of MVNU, and Better Together illustrates this excellently.

"The more that I interact with these families, the more I come to realize that [they]...can [walk] a lonely journey," Miller added, "There aren't a [ton] of fun options or opportunities for these kids to get involved in ... so we are hoping to provide them and their families with an option."

Better Together isn't just for the kids, it's also for the siblings and the parents as well. "One of the things that

surprised me ... is how fun it's been [getting to] know the parents." Miller continued, "Raising a child who is neurodivergent isn't always easy, and I feel so honored to be able to work with some of these fantastic parents and their amazing kids."

Better Together is open to the siblings to attend as well. Miller explained, "[The siblings know each other] better than we do and can offer a safe presence for some of our kids on the spectrum." In addition to this, the siblings are provided with an opportunity to meet other kids who have a sibling on the spectrum, like them. This creates a community not only for the children on the spectrum, but also for the siblings and the parents.

Currently, anywhere from two to eight children

attend the Better Together CoSMO group. There are approximately five to seven volunteers at each event, so sometimes the kids get one on one attention. Better Together provides structure for the kids, with a different theme each week such as Disney, snow and colors. Structured like a daycare or summer camp, Better Together creates consistency for the kids, which is important to child development.

"These kids have so much to offer the world," Miller stated. "They're funny and smart, but you won't know that unless you take the time to get to know them." Better Together not only provides students with a serving opportunity but also gives these kids a chance to learn and be themselves in a safe environment.



## Women's Lacrosse Takes The Field

By Henry Shobert

Following two cancellations, the Mount Vernon Nazarene University women's lacrosse team opened their season on the road March 19 against Saginaw Valley State University. The team is coming off their inaugural season in which they finished 1-2 with their last game, and lone win, appearing to show glimpses of what they believe to be a bright future.

Head coach Caitlyn Kyer discussed her expectations for the 2022 season. Though the team played just three games last season to get the program started, Kyer is setting the standard high. She explained, "I have high hopes and a lot of expectations for the team. Our girls have been preparing and training all throughout our fall pre-season and into the season this spring. We have had different challenges and hurdles thrown our way, but

this team has persevered and flourished through it all."

Kyer continued, "We have been working closely on building our team's defensive skills and I am expecting big things from our defense once games begin, and we are able to put our efforts from practice into play."

She also pointed out a couple of players whom she believes are key to the team's success. She claimed to be particularly excited to watch team captains Bekah Kalas and Ellie Brillhart grow as players this season."

She explained that both will be filling crucial roles this season, with Kalas stepping up to play goalie and Brillhart becoming a leader on defense.

Both Coach Kyer and assistant coach Sutton Fansler expressed their enthusiasm for the growth of the team over the past year. Fansler said, "I believe the biggest

area of growth is our understanding of the game. The team last year was composed of girls who were brand new to the sport, and this year our girls are more experienced."

She continued, "Heading into this season with game-play under our belt is exciting, and I look forward to watching the team develop their style of play." Coach Kyer added, "We recruited an excellent incoming class of freshmen that began their lacrosse journey in high school and some in middle school," and explained, "This varying level of skill across our team has helped all our players grow in different ways."

Captains Sam Poor and Bekah Kalas discussed the importance of leadership and building relationships amongst the team. Poor said, "Being with this program since it started has made me care so much about each of our players

on and off the field. To have a successful program, I believe it's important to develop relationships first to aid the chemistry on the field." Kalas added, "It is easy for me to have a positive attitude around this group. I care about this family, and I would do anything for them; and they know that, so they do the same for each other and myself."

Poor also commented on the team's unique method of bonding and building connections. She explained, "Each girl on the team has a big or little sister that we get gifts for and write notes to before each game." She continued, "My little sis is one of the freshmen, Jane, and I have loved getting to know her more this way."

With high aspirations and new faces, the MVNU women's lacrosse team believes they can come out and have a successful season.



# MVNU Track and Field: Succeeding in the Season

By Mike Basko

After the indoor track and field season, coach Ellis Gallion admitted that the team exceeded his expectations. He stated, “We expected national qualifications and potential all-conference finishes. After that, we are aiming for personal improvement and trying to work into scoring positions at conference.” Many team records have been shattered this season, and several individuals have earned outstanding honors.

Senior thrower Kyler Dickey received All-American honors after placing seventh at nationals in shot put. In addition, he won the Crossroads League cham-

pionship in the shot put for the third consecutive year. Despite this success, Dickey knows that he is capable of even more. He said, “I want to set my eyes higher as I know that I have the ability to jump up to the top three in the shot put.” He said that he owes much of his success to MVNU’s only national champion, Mitchell Soviak. Dickey said of Soviak, “He taught me what to do and where I could eventually be in my career, and that opened my eyes as a young freshman.”

In addition, other athletes have enjoyed success so far this season. Senior Macy Weaver was able to qualify for nationals in the 3000 meters. She said, “After the

first 3K that I did, I was really close to qualifying for indoor nationals, so then I wanted to focus on it, and I was fortunate enough to be able to. It was something I had never been able to do before.” Weaver also qualified for nationals in the marathon event.

The team is also looking toward the outdoor track and field season, which starts in late March. After a season-best race during the indoor season, senior Justis Paul stated, “Coming off a good indoor season, I feel like we got better as the season went on. As we go into outdoor, expectations are high.” He also said he is looking forward to giving the outdoor season

his best effort for his final year of track and is excited to see the team continue to grow stronger as they work towards nationals.

As the team looks on to the outdoor season, Coach Gallion is eager to see how the team can perform. He said, “I am excited to see how our young team continues to develop and compete. I think we have a lot of potential to add more all-conference finishes and All-American status. Exciting things are happening, and we must continue to stay focused, love each other, and work hard!” With high expectations and passion, the team looks to represent MVNU at each meet and, eventually, nationals.



# Spreading Love at The Escape Zone

By Kelsi Brake

Escape Zone is just that -- an escape for children coming from single-parent homes or raised by a guardian to come have fun and get away. Some of the kids are at risk or are living in poverty. The purpose of Escape Zone is to be a safe space for kids to have fun and to be kids.

Hannah Young, MVNU sophomore, is the lead-

er of this COSMO group at MVNU and has a love for kids. She said, "I love to show them the love of Christ. I enjoy seeing the joy on their faces as they get to escape from their daily life." There are around 50 or more kids who come to Escape Zone each week. "They love to hang out with college students, so they are always excited to see us," Young added.

The goal of this group is

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***"I love to show them the love of Christ. I enjoy seeing the joy on their faces . . ."***

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***--Hannah Young***

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to give teens an opportunity to escape from their day-to-day life. College volunteers at Escape Zone want to show the love of Christ to them and be a good witness. This group wants the children to have a safe and

fun place to hang out. They meet every Friday at the chapel at 6:30 p.m. to head to their facility.

Students can reach out to Young at [hanyoung@mail.mvnu.edu](mailto:hanyoung@mail.mvnu.edu) to become involved in Escape Zone.

## WNZR Lifeline Surpasses Donations Goal

(Continued from Page 1) listeners. WNZR staff member and sophomore Dylan Elliot stated that, "Your support means so much to us; and without you, we

wouldn't be able to bring you positive, encouraging messages and music. It is amazing to see how God is working in our community. You are a big part of

why God is changing lives. Thank you for helping us keep hope alive."

Lifeline may be over, but spreading the hope of God will always be endless

at WNZR, because it's the station's duty to save lives with encouraging messages and music to help guide listeners towards the love of Christ.

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