

THE VIEWER

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Illustration by Daniel Skrzypchak

Tags Thrift Shop Beneficial For Shoppers and Students

By Allison Prouty

The Tags Thrift Shop gives MVNU students a chance to find nice clothes and learn about business. Tags is a thrift shop run by Enactus, an organization that allows students to hone their entrepreneurial skills and was first opened last year as a learning and service project for Enactus. Through Tags, students can improve their business management abilities and help serve their customers.

Jane Gum, a volunteer worker at Tags, said, "Tags was a great opportunity for

Enactus . . . to continue with their service projects." Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Enactus had a difficult time getting out into the community to serve.

"There was a thrift store on campus before Tags opened, but the organization wasn't able to run it any more. The students in Enactus went through the clothes that were left over from the old thrift store as well as revamped the store itself," said Gum.

MVNU students can donate their clothing to Tags in bins in the Galloway, Pioneer and Oakwood lobbies as well as

the Central Complex on campus. All proceeds from sales go directly to Enactus to fund conference trips.

The Tags Thrift Shop is open

on Mondays from 5 to 9 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. It is located behind Galloway Hall on MVNU's campus.

MVNU Removes Mask Mandate

By Ben Alexander

As it is well known in the MVNU community, the COVID task force has decided to make masks optional, instead of requiring masks for everyone. COVID task force leader Tracy Waal said that there are seven factors that the task force considered when they made the decision to remove the masks. "First, we watch the data closely," said Waal. "Some of the data points we watch carefully day by day include our positivity rate (percent of required saliva screenings that return a positive result), number in isolation each day (those who are COVID positive), number in quarantine each day (for exposure to someone with COVID), and the number of new COVID cases each week.

Waal stated that the decision to mask early in the semester was driven by the data points quickly trending in the wrong direction. We also monitored these numbers carefully before lifting the mask mandate. Here are our numbers that contributed to the initial announcement included: *Positivity rate: 0.15% (sixth consecutive week this

has dropped. (Lowest since 2/22/21)

- Number in isolation: 5 (Currently the lowest since 3/23/21)

- Number in quarantine: 2 (Tied for lowest since 3/21/21)

- Number of new COVID cases this week: 1 (Lowest since testing began on 1/1/21)

"Second, we observed what successes and failures others have had, based on their actions," added Waal. "For example, we watched another small private college in Ohio that went mask-free from the very beginning of fall semester. Two weeks into the school year, they had 450 positive cases. When we began to see a spike very similar to that other college's developing on day four of our semester, we put the masks on to prevent a similar spike on our campus.

Following conversations regarding lifting protocol, "We, too, were worried about the implications of students traveling home," said Waal. "Therefore, we decided to wait until well after fall break,

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MVNU Removes Mask Mandate

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knowing that the vast majority of our students would travel home and increase exposure to COVID.”

One rule change that Waal explained is the “Mask to Stay, Test to Play,” Ohio Department of Health’s new quarantine protocol. MSTP does not apply to those who are infected with COVID, but it allows those who were exposed to COVID to quarantine in the classroom and continue to engage in extracurricular activities, provided they mask while indoors and participate in more frequent COVID saliva screenings. Failure to comply with expectations will result in being sent home to complete a 7-10 day quarantine.”

MVNU students give different reactions to the removal of the mask mandate. Cue to the sensitivity of the subject, most students asked to remain anonymous. “I don’t necessarily disagree with it but do not fully understand the reasons why we use them,” said one anonymous student, while another commented, “I do not have a strong opinion on the removal of the mask mandate. I do have to admit it is nice to not have to wear them and to be able to see other people’s faces when interacting with them, but at the same time I feel a little sad for those in our community who are vulnerable. Another anonymous student said, “I fundamentally disagree” with the mask mandate.

MVNU students gave their thoughts on whether they will wear a mask or not. One anonymous student said, “I will



Illustration by Daniel Skrzypchak

not,” while another student said, “Yes, I will still choose to wear a mask at times. When I am in a classroom, if I am near a professor or am closely interacting with them, I will put my mask on. I might take it off when I sit down and am no longer projecting out of my mouth.

MVNU students also gave their thoughts on whether the mandate was overstepping the rights of people. An anonymous student said, “I think that it lasted way too long and was not really doing much for a lot of people did not listen to this, and it caused things to not change at all.”

Another Anonymous student said, “The mandate is in violation of our rights to medical privacy because it is forcing us all to wear masks

when the government decides. [They] Can’t enact this sub-martial law act forever”.

How does this mandate affect MVNU faculty? One Anonymous faculty member gave a general statement about the mask mandate removal. “I believe the university is taking the necessary steps to ensure campus is a safe environment, while also considering students’ individual situations. My classrooms will always follow policies and procedures put in place by university officials and current CDC guidelines. Navigating the pandemic has been a challenge for many different professions, and teaching is of course one of those.”

Another anonymous professor gave his thoughts about the mask mandate removal.

“We have had success lowering numbers with our current methods. We have just recently gotten to a 50 percent student vaccination rate (still significantly below the threshold recommended for a community). Given, we still need to make progress on our vaccination rate, and indoor masking has been part of our process of successfully dropping numbers; it makes sense to keep the measures that have been working.”

Overall, the faculty and students have had mixed reactions about the mask mandate. It was interesting to see how many different opinions they are. The question you all want to know -- is removing masks working? According to the MVNU website (www.mvnu.edu/stayinformed), on Nov. 5, there were only two active cases. There have only been 126 total cases on campus since Sept. 1, 2021.

You may be asking what would factor in returning to a mask mandate. Waal responded, “In general, increases in COVID spread and number of infections both on our campus and in our region will cause us to put the masks back on.” Some were even shocked of the timing of the mask removal mandate. Waal said, “Although this might appear to be a quick announcement, the COVID task force and MVNU’s Senior Leadership Team began discussing this weeks ago. The consistent and sustained decline in COVID numbers gave us confidence to act.” Hopefully everyone can stay healthy.



Members of the 2021 MVNU Homecoming Court are, from left, Chloe Mae Peters, Megan Vollrath, Brooke Semmelroth, Queen Lauren Lain, Autumn Thomae and Zoe Bricker.

Courtesy photo

Lain Crowned MVNU Homecoming Queen

By MacKenzie Holder

MVNU held its annual homecoming festivities on the weekend of Nov. 12, welcoming back both traditional, graduate and professional studies alumni, family and friends to our beautiful campus! While in town, alumni were encouraged to try and take time to visit our campus presence in historic downtown Mount Vernon. All the events of the weekend offered special times together.

Each year, a homecoming queen is crowned at the start of the men's basketball game. This year's homecoming court included freshman class representative Megan Vollrath, sophomore class representative Chloe Mae Peters and junior class representative Zoe Bricker.

The three senior class representatives were Lauren Lain, Brooke Semmelroth and Autumn Thomae. Crowned as

MVNU Homecoming Queen during the ceremony was Lauren Lain.

When asked about what being named homecoming queen meant to her, Lain stated, "I was shocked when they called my name! I love MVNU so much—it's been a place that has challenged me and carried me when I couldn't carry myself—so I was incredibly honored to be crowned the 2021 homecoming queen."

Lain continued on to talk about how she is going to use the role of homecoming queen to inspire others. She stated, "Honestly, I think it encourages me to examine my life more and consider what story it's telling. I ask God daily to make me more like him—to make me kind and intentional with others and to be a person that pursues both excellence and grace—and I hope that, by being crowned, I can show that good character like that matters!! In the end, it's not

about being the most popular, or most "beautiful," but it's about being who God created you to be and continuing to be formed into the character of Christ. I'm so grateful to have been crowned, and, honestly, it gives me a perfect excuse—not that I needed one, ha-ha—to come back for homecoming next year as an alum and continue to invest in this place I've called home."

In choosing members of the homecoming court, students were asked to choose a female who exhibits the qualities of a godly leader in school while also having integrity, showing a sense of responsibility, high academic standings, reliability and caring for others.

Zoe Bricker, a friend of Lain, stated, "Lauren is such a great role model -- a true friend that exhibits the love of Jesus Christ. She is constantly uplifting and encouraging and striving to better everyone around her and herself."

Freshman Class Elects Officers

By Allison Prouty

MVNU's Student Government Association has announced their freshman class council. Primary elections were held Nov. 1-3, and the final election was held Nov. 4-6. The announcement of the freshman class council was made to the freshman class Nov. 8.

Tiffany Van Dame, Director of Campus Life, explained that the elections process begins when students sign up for the position that they want to fill. "Students interested in class council sign up for what position they are interested. If there are more than two people for a position, a primary election is held to narrow that number down to two," said Van Dame. "After that, the final election will be held. Class councils are only voted on by each respective class. For example, only freshman voted in the freshman council elections, not the entire student body." For this election, a primary election was held for freshmen to vote on their class president and ministries director.

The following students make up the 2021-2022 freshman class council:

Evan Hodkinson was elected to be the freshman class president. He said he knew he wanted to run when he realized that becoming freshman class president "could be an opportunity to genuinely change the university and the class of 2025." Hodkinson

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From the MVNU Cafeteria . . . Meet Barry

By Allison Prouty

Anyone who's eaten in the MVNU Cafeteria during weekday evenings has met Barry Whetstone. He's known for being enthusiastic about greeting everyone who comes to the cafeteria, which is his ministry on campus.

Barry grew up in a parsonage home. "My dad was a pastor, and he prayed that all of us would somehow get to get a Christian education," said Barry. After spending some time being a "rebellious teenager," he gave his life to the Lord and decided to pursue his calling as a pastor. An answer to his father's prayers, Barry attended Southern Nazarene University. "College education has such a tremendous meaning to me," Barry said, in part because of the friends that he made in his time there. "They're still my college friends. I got engaged in the back of one of their cars, and one of my college friends became a General Superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene. We've kept in contact; and if you ask me who my best friends are, after 57 years, I'll tell you they're my best friends."

After graduating from SNU, Barry went on to serve as a pastor for over 50 years. "Unfortunately, health issues pretty much mandated that I not pastor because of my heart and lungs," said Barry. But because of his love for people, he knew he wanted to find something that would let him be with people. So, he reached out to Dr. Henry Spaulding to find a new way of ministry. Barry was first hired as an adjunct professor at MVNU,



Barry Whetstone is a familiar, welcome face for all at the MVNU cafeteria.
Photo by Allison Prouty

but he quickly realized that he wouldn't get to spend as much time with students as he would have liked. Soon, a position opened that allowed Barry to coordinate the shuttle ministry, where his goal was "to be there for the students as well as transporting them." He did this for three years until the COVID-19 pandemic broke out around the world. There were MVNU students on a trip in Italy just as the virus was taking over the country; and upon their return to America, they needed picked up from the airport. Barry went to pick them up. But after they returned, he learned that all the people he picked up were going to be the first people from MVNU to be placed into quarantine, and Barry was going into quarantine as well. In the year following this, Barry experienced four "widow maker" heart attacks, but he said that, "God was protecting me. My one physician... she says, 'you're the man who won't die!' As long as I have a mission, I'm not going to die," said Barry.

His mission now is to be with MVNU students as much

as he can, this time by working in the cafeteria. "Dr Spaulding had been envisioning that I could really make my position here [in the cafeteria] as a ministry because they could let me just be free at the desk to talk to you guys and spend time, and I've already had several counseling sessions with young people who just needed to talk to somebody that was different," said Barry.

When he isn't at the desk with students, he loves helping the cafeteria staff to help make sure dinner goes smoothly. "We've had so many challenges this year with COVID and having to use paper plates and take things out, and each day, that's something I can help them with. So, when we're going through this time, I've been able to help them get the Styrofoam paper plates set out and all of those things I can do to help them with the load they've carried," he said. "I just love being around the people, and I love the staff of the cafeteria. They've been really wonderful and accepting to me. They really love you kids, even though they're usually so busy that they don't have time

to show that, which is, you know, part of our human characteristics; but, boy, do they really work to put out good food, and I'm happy with that."

Barry really does enjoy the cafeteria food, and he loves to let students know what's good when they come in to the cafeteria. He loves steak ticket nights, but, "I think everybody likes steak night. But, all of our meat is so prime and so well cooked," said Barry, "so there's a lot of good foods. I just have to be honest and say that I like to eat. So the best food [in the cafeteria] is the next meal. I'll tell you how I feel about it."

Barry wants students to know that "you are loved. I really just want [students] to know that I'm here for them and that if they need somebody to talk to. If they're going through a difficult time, that's not abnormal. That's a part of developing as an individual. It's especially a part of growing as a Christian; and I pray that, whether it be me or someone else, that they won't allow the burdens to get too heavy, and that they'll allow us to carry them with us for them. Because if I get anything out of the Bible, it's that our faith with Christ is an individual thing. Nobody can do it for me. But the reality is, as much as it is individual, it's relational and that everything in our lives has to do with a relationship. So make good relationships; don't miss the opportunities to be there. But please know that I and everyone on the staff I know and everyone that works in the cafeteria would stop if they knew you are hurting and do whatever they could to help you. We love you."

Freshman Class Officers Elected

(Continued from page 4) wants to make MVNU a place where all students can grow in faith and feel like a safe place for students to learn and grow. "No matter where a person is in their spiritual journey with God, I want MVNU to be a place where they can take that next step," said Hodkinson. "I want to discover new ways to make MVNU more inclusive. By making MVNU more inclusive and united, I want MVNU to not only feel like college but a home where everyone is accepted."

Jadon Bird is the freshman ministries director. A Youth and Family Ministry major, Bird said, "I know I was called to ministry. And I just love sharing the love of Christ with others. Something recently that's really been on my heart is being intentional with people and showing they have value and worth, and that comes from Christ. And I just wanted to share that with my fellow classmates."

He wants to accomplish this by holding worship nights for freshman to get involved and worship together as a class. Bird said he wants to see more opportunities for the freshman class to serve and work together, and he's looking to use his position as a chance to create these opportunities. "I'm just excited to work with everyone and serve with friends here at MVNU, and I'm excited for all of us to be the people that God's created us to be," he said.

Joci Totten, freshman administrative director, said that she gained some leadership experience in high school as the secretary and treasurer of her FFA club. She describes herself as a "very organized

person," which will be important for her position as administrative director. She will take minutes during meetings and make sure meetings are organized.

Totten will also be helping the SGA put together events such as worship nights. She wanted to remind students to "just keep having fun. I know college is hard. So just make sure you give yourself some free time and some time to catch up on sleep."

Lilian Volk, freshman events director, knew she wanted to serve the student body after

serving in different leadership roles through high school. "I wanted to be a part of the change and the behind the scenes. To me that meant running for events director with the intentions of being able to plan fun and amazing opportunities for the Freshman class," said Volk. As events director, Volk will plan events that help students have fun and create lasting memories that students can look back on long after they've left MVNU. She wants these events to help students get to know their classmates better. "I encourage

[students] to go to that basketball game, go to that small group meeting, or whatever event we have going on! Just make sure to get involved! Stay tuned for some fun events coming up!" said Volk.

She also runs the Instagram page for the MVNU Class of 2025 (@MVNU2025), which she encourages students to follow to see features on freshman students and to learn about events.

Visit <https://www.mvnusga.com/> to stay up to date with the MVNU SGA and their elections.

Student Artworks Featured at Buchwald

By Grant Hauger

On the MVNU campus, students are not particularly aware of the art being created in the Buchwald building in downtown Mount Vernon. As of now, the art program has not had too much attention paid to it on the main campus. Students in the art program are all for seeing some of their art displayed in more than just the Buchwald Center.

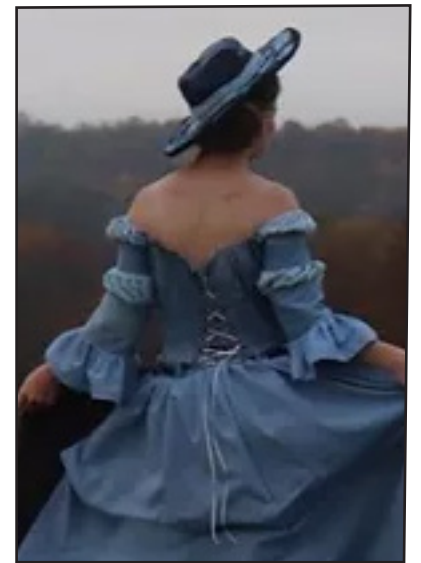
Senior art student Abbi Hurst shared her thoughts on the relationship between the art department and MVNU. "I feel that since Buchwald is off campus, the art department is out of everyone else's minds." The next step is to make students on campus aware of the artwork being created in Buchwald.

Junior art student Meg Carter answered, "The best way to make people aware of what's happening in Buchwald is to bring some of it to campus." Students in the art program have plenty of art worth dis-

playing, but a lot of work goes unseen. "With a lot of projects, they get discarded and shoved into a closet. Instead, we could have some of them displayed on campus," Carter said.

The idea of art being brought on campus seems like something that students support. Senior communications major Brogan Campbell thinks it is nice that art students have their own space, but he also thinks it would be awesome to see their work while walking through the caf and the chapel.

Hurst then talked about the value that art can bring to students on campus. "I think it's a different way for people to see themselves in a way they wouldn't normally see," he said. She added that when she goes to a gallery, she tries to put herself into the artist's work. She is able to learn more about herself that way, and she often applies this method into her own work. She said, "It's an outlet for people on campus to learn things outside of



Senior art student Abbi Hurst is among the MVNU students currently featured at The Buchwald Center.

their major."

From now until Dec. 9, Victoria Ogg has artwork featured in the Schnormeier Gallery. Her work is meant to highlight the natural female figure by being presented in Victorian and Georgian fashion. To learn more about Ogg's work, she will be giving her gallery talk on Dec. 2.



MVNU Bowling: The Beginning of a New Era

By Mike Basko

The MVNU bowling team has begun a new era in their first year in the Crossroads league. This year, the Crossroads League finally added bowling as a varsity sport. Both the MVNU men's and women's teams are young and upstart but definitely have some growing to do as the season continues. Coach Ron Garlinger said of the team, "The season has gone very well, considering that we have a very young team. They are learning a lot and getting valuable time on the lanes competing. The growth that I am seeing is tremendous." He is eager for the team to continue to gain more experience and improve.

Despite the overall inexperience

of the team, the veterans have shone this year, especially sophomore Hannah Vaughn. She has captured two individual first places so far this year, in addition to setting a women's school record with the highest total of pins in one game. Even with this significant accomplishment, she is not satisfied. She said, "My average is really what I've been focusing on, because I feel like the average shows how consistent you are, and that's really what I'm striving for." Vaughn is excited to continue to compete as the season goes on and build on the success she has achieved so far.

For the men's team, Senior Dana Hicks has stepped up into a strong leadership role, especially since the team has only two returning bowlers

this year. Regarding the new members, Hicks said, "They've done very well in tournaments so far this year, not where we want to be per say, but definitely taking the right steps." Due to personal experience, Hicks knows the transition from high school to college bowling can be tough, and he will attempt to lead the new recruits to the best of his abilities and help them succeed in the new environment.

Hicks is also looking forward to getting back to traveling with the team after last year's season, where the team was not allowed to travel outside of the state or stay overnight due to COVID. This year, the team bonding that will take place as a result of these longer tournaments and events will have an impact on

the team's overall relationships with each other. As the team continues to grow, they are hoping to become more and more competitive now that bowling has become an official part of the Crossroads League.

Coach Garlinger said, "We are enjoying the team this year, and they seem to be learning and growing as the season progresses. We are having a very good recruiting class coming in for next year, and [I'm] excited to see what the future holds for MVNU bowling."

After the team hosted the first Crossroads League tournament in October at Colonial City Lanes in Mount Vernon, the team is now on a break until the spring semester until tournaments begin again in January.

Cross Country Teams Experience Growth and Success

By Grant Hauger

The MVNU cross country teams have run for a strong season both on and off the courses. MVNU runners trained hard throughout the summer to get in shape for the challenging runs. Coach Simon Taylor says they focus on “a lot of miles and strength work to get a solid base for the season.” Once the runners get back on campus, they keep up the hard work with lots of different workouts to keep in top shape and to stay strong to avoid injuries.

Junior runner Allyson Schall mentioned the importance of recovery, “Also, lots of hydration, sleep, and stretching,” she said.

Each runner set their own individual goal going into the year, but it seems that the team has certainly reached

their goals so far this season. Both teams have been getting better as the season goes on. The women finished third of eight at the Huntington Invite on Oct. 1, and the men’s team finished second of nine teams. More recently, they earned a great result at the Jenna Strong Fall Classic. “Our women’s team had their best performance of the year placing fourth out of 24 teams. The men’s team also had one of their best performances of the year placing eighth out of 33 teams,” coach Taylor said.

A junior on the team, Garrett Gemmaka talked about the team’s improvement. “Seeing those times go down is nice as we all know that we leave it out there for each person on the team,” he said. Seeing the hard work pay off is so rewarding for us.”

While the team has seen



Coach Simon Taylor

success on the courses, the most rewarding part is the time they get with each other. Coach Taylor talked about the team coming together. “We have grown a lot closer this year, and it is great to be part of a team that truly cares for one another and wants everyone to be their best.”

“It sometimes makes me

emotional because of how blessed I am to be a part of this family of a team.” Gemmaka said.

One thing that helps bring this team together is the team’s weekly Bible study. “It is an amazing way to be in fellowship with one another . . . keeping God at the center of our lifelong friendships,” Schall said.

The team loves what they do and who they do it with, and they still have another chance to run in competition when they go to Huntington University for the second time this year where they will compete in the Crossroads League Championship on Nov. 6. It would be a tall task, but if the teams have incredible times at the league championship, then they have the chance to qualify for their ultimate goal, the NAIA Nationals.

Successful Season For Lady Cougars Volleyball Team

By Ben Alexander

The 2021 MVNU Lady Cougars volleyball team has been enjoying a very successful season. And as of this writing, the Lady Cougars are 25-5 overall and 11-4 in The Crossroads League. Tori Small, a senior volleyball player, highlighted the keys of being so successful this year.

“The biggest contribution to this season’s success is the work that we put in during the summer and preseason. This year’s preseason was the longest that I have ever had in all of my four years at MVNU, but it was worth it. Our entire team was able to be on campus for almost a month before classes started to focus solely

on volleyball and creating relationships. This team is the closest one that I have ever been on; we are all like a huge family now.”

Team chemistry is very important, but she has two season goals that she expects from her team. “Two of our goals every year are to beat IWU (Indiana Wesleyan University) and to win the conference championship.”

The good news is that there is time to achieve their goals, but she added that there is another team goal that is more important and bigger than volleyball, all the while improving as volleyball players.

“As a team, our main goal is always to grow closer to God and improve as volleyball

players,” said Small. “We have team devotionals that help us dive into the Bible before each game and remind us who we are playing for: God. We push ourselves and our teammates in practices so that we can perform at the highest level in games, but it is all for nothing if it is not for God.”

Senior Ellie Ruby shared her thoughts about the volleyball team’s success. “I think a lot of things have contributed to our season success, but one thing is that everybody is buying into our team’s core values. So, we joke a lot about our core values as like cares and stuff like that, but they really do hold a lot of meaning. And it’s something coaches came up with, and basically it’s like

every single person being a selfless teammate, having relentless energy holding each other accountable and that kind of stuff. I think that really helps us focus on our goals and play for each other instead of playing for the person. Like I mean, ourselves.

Ruby also shared her thoughts about the season’s goals. “Our season has went as much as we expected, like pretty well. We have a very talented team and are super skilled in all areas. Our team had a big upset against Bethel. They were ranked pretty well, and we upset them, so that was a great win for us,” she said.

Ruby added that the team’s
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MVNU Golf Teams Look to End Season on a High Note

By Brogan Campbell

Both the men's and women's golf teams at Mount Vernon Nazarene University have enjoyed success this fall in their respective programs. The season's final tournament was The Huntington Invitational on Oct. 22 and 23.

In an interview with Coach King, the head coach for both the men's and women's teams, he gave a reflection on the season for both teams and how they have both performed on the fall season. Having this be his eighth season at MVNU, Coach King said he has seen "leaps and bounds" of growth from his women's team of only six players.

He said that the women's program has become "much more competitive" than what it was when he arrived in 2014. He credits a lot of that to strong leadership and character, mainly through his senior leaders. "Very important to

have people with leadership skills," he said regarding his seniors. He also said that leadership goes beyond what is on the course.

Coach King said that he wants to build strong characters in the community through his teams that people can recognize as MVNU grads through their work. He said this helps in things like recruiting, that high schoolers can look and see their senior leaders as people they can see as mentors.

When it comes to his men's team, he was very pleased with their performances, highlighting a back-to-back first-place finishing position in the Cedarville Medal Match Play and in the MVNU Fall Cougar Classic.

One of the things he attributed this success to was the depth of his current men's team. Having 11 players allows him great depth and golfers that have a wide range of shots

they can hit.

Coach King said that golf is set up differently than other collegiate sports, as no matter the roster size, only five players may be brought to compete in a tournament. This means choosing who to bring to each tournament can be a tough task; but for Coach King, he has his system set up that allows him to choose each week.

Each week at practice, Coach King sets up what he calls a mini or practice tournament for his players, and whoever reaches the goals he sets for that week gets to go to the tournament. However, he does have a fallback for his players if goals are not met, as each player will go to at least two tournaments a semester. This allows freshman and developmental players their chance to play in tournaments and get real experience.

Finally reflecting on the season before the final tourna-

ment of the semester, Coach King said about his men's team, "Real happy with how we have played". When asked to reflect on his women's team, Coach King emphasized that with only six players on his roster, he "can't complain about the averages." This is the average placement of their tournament matches.

When asked about how his team can improve and practice more heading into the spring semester, he joked about being in Ohio during the winter and not Florida, and not being able to practice outdoors in the winter. However, he said this is no reason to sulk or to get lazy about putting in the work, and his team will need to work harder and smarter to get better and stay conditioned for another round of tournaments in the spring.

Be sure to follow and keep up with MVNU golf over at mvnucougars.com, and all of their social media accounts.

Successful Season For Lady Cougars Volleyball Team

(Continued from page 8)
goals and expectations are to place high in the conference

She also went into depth on what it meant to her that MVNU is being considered in the polls. "Yeah, so top 25 automatically go to nationals. And then, if you win your conference tournament, so if we would buy somehow make it to our conference championship and win, we would have an automatic bid of going to nationals.

Coach Kendra Mosher shared what has contributed to this season's success. "One of the biggest reasons our team is having success this season

is that our team chemistry is very strong. Our team has worked really hard to become a unit, and it is evident in the way we play. We are all having fun and playing for the success of the whole team, not individual success. I also think our captains (Molly Galaszewski, Paige Brenner and Ellie Ruby) are doing an awesome job at leading the team. They are always there for their teammates to encourage them, push them, hold them accountable, etc. They are great examples of what we want Cougar Volleyball to represent."

Mosher shared how the season has gone with the season

expectations. "I would say we have met our expectations for the most part. We knew we wanted a winning record and to be one of the top four teams in the conference. We have been very excited to be receiving votes in two NAIA national polls, and we hope to break the top 25 in the near future!" Mosher shares what her goals of the Lady cougars are.

MVNU Athletic Director Chip Wilson also shared his thoughts on this year's volleyball team. "The leadership has been tremendous from Coach Mosher and her staff. We also have strong leadership from team members as well," said

Wilson. "I am a fan of all of our coaches. I see their investment in our student-athletes, and it brings me a lot of joy to see them have success. I am very proud of Coach Mosher and this team. This program has always had a rich history of success, and this team is carrying on the winning tradition."

The Lady Cougars ended their season with a 15-25, 15-25, 16-25 loss at IWU; a 25-20, 25-15, 18-25, 25-23 victory over Lake Erie on Nov. 3; and a loss in the Crossroads conference quarterfinals by 20-25, 21-25, 22-25 to Bethel on Nov. 6.



Tennis Teams Wrap Up Fall Season

By Ricky Geyer

On paper, the MVNU tennis program had what many would consider a forgettable season. If wins and losses painted a whole picture, it wouldn't be very colorful. MVNU did find themselves in the losing column more than many in the program would have liked, but what they learned about themselves along the way is much of what helps them look forward.

Sophomores on the men's team Austin Faucett and Clayton Amburgy found much success at the individual level. When asked about his individual season Faucett said, "I worked hard in the off season to get myself ready to compete at a high level." Throughout the season, Faucett won a good percent his individual matches as well as many doubles matches with teammate Clayton Amburgy. Though the team may not have had a large amount of team success, they were able to often find a bright spot on the individual level. "We have a lot of really good tennis players," said Amburgy. That doesn't always mean you

win; all the other teams have really good tennis players, too; so often times we would find ways to succeed individually and improve."

The women's team was able to find a bit more success throughout the year, finishing 4-8 overall and 3-5 in the Crossroads. One of the top contributors to their successes was junior Hannah Fugate. A central focus for her throughout her freshman and sophomore years were always to keep improving, and it shined through for her in her junior year. Now she leads the women's team by example. "I had a lot of Individual success and confidence this year," said Fugate. "Higher expectations come with that. And while I enjoyed a lot of my success, I can remember having to overcome a match where I had a great chance to win, and I just let it get away from me." Fugate holds herself and her team to a higher standard, helping her use disappointment as a fuel to drive her to get better.

For the entire tennis program, the goal is always to improve, but a big part of their

core philosophy is their drive to not only be better on the court at the end of the year, but to also be better children of Christ.

Coach Alvin Cheng said, "This program is as much about ministry and spirituality as it is about tennis. I'm here to coach not only tennis players but young men and women. As long as I'm here coaching, that is how it will always be." This was reflected in the players as well.

Amburgy was very happy with the large focus on Christianity saying, "It's one thing that makes tennis different I feel. We often talk about our ministry, and I think it brings us closer as Christians."

Fugate believes that the focus on ministry for MVNU tennis is one of the things that really sets their team aside from many of the other tennis teams.

One can never hide from the win loss column in sports at any level, however, and many aren't satisfied with their finish. The men's team saw themselves losing nine straight before they were able to stride to their first victory against

Capital University, a victory which Coach Cheng and Amburgy were particularly proud of.

"It's hard losing. There's no getting around it, but we improved every day; and taking victory in our last game of the fall against Capital shows that" said Amburgy.

Coach Cheng highlighted the reason for the victory stating that self-improvement is the hardest thing to teach as a coach. But many of the people on the team strive to improve on their own.

As the season came to an end for MVNU, many were pleased with their individual performances. But they also know what's in store and want to make the necessary strides to not only succeed as individuals on the court and succeed as people off it but also to succeed as a team in the crossroads league.

Despite the win-loss record for both teams, there is a lot to be positive and hopeful about coming soon for the MVNU tennis program. Thanks in part to an excellent culture and great leadership at the helm.