First year of fee

SGA allocates $175,000 so far from new student payments

By Connor Mahan

February 2016, SGA moved funds from a new activity fee ($100 for fall and spring semesters). A little over $175,000 has been gathered, but some clubs have been frustrated with how the funds were allocated.

“It’s a way to benefit the student body,” said Jessica Hiney, SGA president. “The goal of this was to add vibrancy to student life.”

The fee brings new opportunities for students, activities and clubs, she said.

“We considered this fee initially was pro-posed so we could fund the activities. First came here and asked if there wasn’t an activity fee, said Hiney. “We then did research before the academic year on other schools that are like Mount Mercy” and activity saw the stark difference in the amount of money that goes toward our programming boards (that would be our M2AP board) and that’s when we decided that the fee should be implemented.”

Currently, SGA has gathered a little over $175,000 in total. $390,000 has been allocated to M2AP board, $37,552 to clubs and $18,552 to SGA.

See Travel money page 4

Day of the dice

On Feb. 24, Cedar Rapids finally gained a local casino, as Busse Library was transformed for Vegas night. Students toss the dice at a craps table at the event sponsored by M2AP Board.

The MMU Enactus presented a check for $11,000 Feb. 24 to the African Women Empowered (AWE), a local group that took part in the group’s popular #Sandbags2Handbags initiative.

Enactus gives $11,000 to women’s group

Alyson Schultz, senior, computer science major and a double minor in chemistry and math, won the breakfast panel set of the presenters at the 19th annual conference of the National Association of Development for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics, open to women pursuing a degree in math. In February, Schultz presented a new technique to speed up an algorithm used for graphing.

Immigration panel set

The MMU International Club will hold a panel discussion on immigration March 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Flaherty Room (Basile 204). To attend, lunch will discuss the impact “PC” has on culture. To attend, RSVP to dbutts@mtmercy.edu.

Student’s research leads to conference

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Pep band pumps up BB crowds

By Collin Wiley

The goal of the Mount Mercy’s Pep band is simple: to support MMU’s athletic teams and provide oodles of entertainment throughout the game. The pep band started practicing during 3 Term twice a week until the spring semester started.

“We learned our new school fight song ‘Stand for Mercy,’ some basketball time-out tunes and some new group of pep band tunes to build upon in the upcoming years,” Steven Stickney, band director, said.

“Stand for Mercy” is the new university fight song written by Dan Terrell and transposed by Terrell and written by Dan Busse.

“This was a big step for the band, and I think as the band improves in the actual game there will be a bigger impact of the pep band throughout the game,” Stickney said.

Words have been written for the song, and will be performed on March 12 at the fine arts concert in the Chapel of Mercy by the university choir.

The Mount Mercy Pep band consists of not only Mount Mercy students, but community members from the area as well.

“Our six-year-old program is in early stage of development compared to other college and universities,” Stickney said.

“However, having the community members in the band helps the band play more quality literature and adds to the instrumentation of the band.

“It serves as an important and excellent example of how you can continue to enrich your life through music long after college,” Stickney said.

The Mount Mercy Pep band program is expecting to grow within the next couple of years, and all college students that played an instrument in high school are expected to join.

“I see a lot of potential as there have been attempts in the past to have a pep band, but there hasn’t been much success,” Paul Gavin, athletic director at Mount Mercy University said.

“However, after hearing them play one song, I knew we had a good thing.”

The Mount Mercy Concert Band, University Choir and Hand Bell Ensemble have a concert on March 12 at 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Mercy.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Busse goes Greek for annual Vegas night

Marion gallery showcases students’ artwork

By Amber Downes

Mount Mercy University art students have their artwork displayed at the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center. This year the students have their pieces out in the community to be admired and to be sold.

Mount Mercy is done.”

Oldenburg said. “Plus, it will hopefully help me get into grad school at Iowa once my time at Mount Mercy is done.” Some of the artwork, that is on display in the art center, has been sold. Other students whose artwork has been displayed there believe their work has sold. This gives students the opportunity to have their pieces out in the community to be admired and to be sold.

“The Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center is located at 4800 North Tenth Street in Marion. The public can visit during gallery hours of 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on the first Saturday of the month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

14 MMU artists share their pieces

- Kealy Bills
- Erica Birgisson-Oldenburg
- Lauren Brumman
- Megan Evans
- Jacob Hernend
- Mariah Kildol
- Abbey Kizer
- Kaitlyn Melcher
- Maggie Murphy
- Morgan Orritana
- Jepsa Reusenberg
- Kathryn Weiland
- Julie Wise

Some of the artwork that is on display in the art center has been sold. Some students whose artwork has been displayed for students have received a purchase order for the artwork that was sold by the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center.

Students gamelake fake money to win real prizes

By Tyus Thompson

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We vote more activities on campus with new 3GA activity fee

Claudia Magana, junior, Brennan Duffy, senior, psychology

Nicole Pietig, junior, nursing

Nick Gibson, freshman, football

Heard On The Hill
By Capria Davis

What people are saying on topics of interest

With spring break coming up soon the Times was curious to see what outdoor activities students are looking forward to, so we asked:

When the Quran is read, when Muhammad’s life is examined, when Sharia is understood and when the Islamic law keeps to the spirit of Sharia, Muslim women enjoy the highest of ranks in society.

Nicole Pietig, junior, nursing

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When the Quran is read, when Muhammad’s life is examined, when Sharia is understood and when the Islamic law keeps to the spirit of Sharia, Muslim women enjoy the highest of ranks in society.

Who could create a spectacular educational experience? Universities and the community, our own students, and even other colleges. It would be neat to see a combination of the two at MMU.

Who knows, maybe one day we would have an annual spring or fall concert that brings in either a local or regional artist. It would also be neat to see something like this every year, maybe once a month, or even every weekend because there is nothing better at boosting school spirit.

It would be great if we could promote our students, not just bring in an artist or do something else. Maybe we could promote small vendors and businesses but we could promote our students at Mount Mercy by sharing all of the many cultures we have on our campus by having musical acts that reflect the true guidance of the Sharia as derived from the scripture of the Quran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, and to legal interpretations of this Sharia, the form of Islamic law, has succeeded in electing women as heads of state for as long as the seventh century. Muslims now have an issue with the fact that politically, religiously, socially, economically, or otherwise. This is clearly not the case.

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In order to participate in the Instagram jam, students had to take a photo, post the photo to Instagram page and use the hashtag #MMUInstagramJam. Overall, SGA received about 80 submissions from graduate, undergraduate students and alumni. Photos submitted ranged from hanging around campus, people’s cat’s and dogs, to the buildings of Mount Mercy. The work from the Instagram jam can be viewed in the Jannyn Hanson White Gallery until March 9.

Art in the gallery changes monthly. Futur galleries include a curated show that will put on by Huyg, an history collection and a high school art exhibit to be held for Celebrate the Arts day.

Why do you always attend your daily routine look around you, art is everywhere! Not just in a gallery,” said Richard.

About 80 graduate, undergraduate and alumni submitted photos, art instructor wants to do event again and get campus more involved

About Cali student enjoying warmer weather

Doug Brock, vice president of finance

"We had quite a bit of submissions, and travel requests. However, an additional $19,000 was also allocated for clubs’ fund and travel requests by the end of the year.

Some clubs have been upset about travel not being funded as they expected. "Coming up $25,000 short of what we anticipated means we have less money to allocate out for additional funds and travel," said Hiney. "This is not a typical February for Iowa, and with weather like this right now, March could be much worse," English Professor Mary Verhulst said.

I do believe in California, but right now the weather systems have completely changed. California has experienced some of the most rain and snow they have never seen in years, while Iowa continues to shine. I’ve been a California boy my whole life, but it Iowa continues to have weather like this I may become an Iowan boy for life.

My mom said, “You’re going to need some warm jackets, pants and snow boots,” my mom said.

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Two runners qualify for NAIA meet
By Tyra Thompson
News Editor
Monte’s track and field had many successes this indoor season ranging from tying new records, breaking personal records and breaking records. However, for two Mustangs doing these alone was not enough.
Reece Duos, a junior criminal justice major, and Kathleen Vander Poel, a sophomore business management and finance major made both the NAIA National Track / Field Championships. Duos qualified in the 60-meter hurdles, while Vander Poel qualified in the 3,000-meter run.
“I don’t know how to put it into words. I am super excited to get represented Monty at the NAIA Track/Field National Championships,” said Duos.
Although both made it to nationals, it did not come easy for either. They both had ups and downs, whether it was from a tough practice, bad rain, or overall stress of the meet they put into it.
“If there were many low points of the season for me I had to push through,” said Vander Poel. “Being further along in my career, I can get kind of tough not getting to see your family close by or having to go home after the race, especially when you make it to nationals.”
Vander Poel stated that some of the workouts were difficult giving them that a train on a treadmill or an ice aren, and that juggling school along with these things can be tough at times.
“However, without having to do everything for myself this would not have been possible or the athlete I would be or person I am,” Vander Poel said. “These tough workouts and the off and on the track have shaped me into the student-runner that I am, and that is being able to deal with hard tasks, a day to day plan and missing my family but being able to do it.”
Beside the ups and downs of the season, this was one common experience for both in their seasons— their determination. “I think that Duos has such a main source of inspiration. From the time I met her I had a focus on making it to nationals,” said Duos. “So I guess there was no motivation but just a drive and determination to make it to nationals.”
Both Poel and Duos qualified in the 600-meter run. With a time of 1:31.18 a mile to go to make it to the finals of such races Vander Poel had in hopes of getting a leg up on the competition they would have March 1 for Monty.
Being both of them chose not to run a quality race yet and even make it to state finals. From the track they did it to finals both of them are extremely excited about the opportunity to get to the front of them.
“I think it is very good to know that I put in all this work before and during the worries of being a part of athletic competition and at least the highest level,” said Vander Poel.
Being a national qualifier does not just come by an individual’s effort it takes a whole team, and even though this is the last indoor season that Vander Poel and Duos get to go to the national meet they will not be changing on their time.
By Madalyn Orton
WWE: Not a sport, but still fun
Monte’s volleyball team displayed their ability to battle on the court, but unfortunately fell short to the top ranked Grand Valley State University Vikings on Feb. 16 at home.
“This was the best we’ve played this year,” said Mary Kay VanOort, head men’s volleyball and assistant women’s volleyball coach.
Despite the 30-25, 21-25 and 17-25 set losses, the Mustangs kept positive attitudes throughout the entire game from their coach and her players for keeping a positive outlook and promoting a seven-game week.
With a thrilling first set program going up against NAIA number one team in men’s volleyball, Monte’s was clearly the underdogs. Yet, VanOort believes looking for the “small victories” in each game is critical to their overall morals.
“It was exciting to get kills out of the middle,” VanOort said of their offense.
In addition, freshmen Nikola Stamenov and Smallt Tsvilenki each had 16 kills. Bobby Miller, freshman, setting for first time this season, had 21 assists. Justin Araiza, freshman, had 5 digs.
According to VanOort, having more volleyball experience than men’s. Stamenov and Tsvilenki are looked up to by the players.
New team improves
Mustangs make strides in loss to Vikings, but fall to Fontbonne
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Monte’s volleyball team displayed their ability to battle on the court, but unfortunately fell short to the top ranked Grand Valley State University Vikings on Feb. 16 at home.
“This was the best we’ve played this year,” said Mary Kay VanOort, head men’s volleyball and assistant women’s volleyball coach.
Despite the 30-25, 21-25 and 17-25 set losses, the Mustangs kept positive attitudes throughout the entire game from their coach and her players for keeping a positive outlook and promoting a seven-game week.
With a thrilling first set program going up against NAIA number one team in men’s volleyball, Monte’s was clearly the underdogs. Yet, VanOort believes looking for the “small victories” in each game is critical to their overall morals.
“It was exciting to get kills out of the middle,” VanOort said of their offense.
In addition, freshmen Nikola Stamenov and Smallt Tsvilenki each had 16 kills. Bobby Miller, freshman, setting for first time this season, had 21 assists. Justin Araiza, freshman, had 5 digs.
According to VanOort, having more volleyball experience than men’s. Stamenov and Tsvilenki are looked up to by the players.
By Anna Bohr
Multimedia Editor

Alexus Minervini's life has always been about animals and helping others. “I’ve always had a love for animals,” Minervini, sophomore biology major said. “So I thought about going into zoology originally.”

Her greatest inspiration when she was younger was Steve Irwin because while watching him on television she realized that someone could love animals for a living instead of as a hobby. Minervini went through a period where she was observed with little rats. In fact, she wrote a “scientific” book about rats when she was in second grade. “Then I realized that you get to see animals on land all the time,” Minervini said. “You don’t see the animals in the ocean often and that interested me.”

Minervini likes all marine animals but otters are her favorite. She dreams of being able to work with them. “Humans have the ability to say what is wrong with animals and allows me to analyze it better than others who don’t have the same background,” Minervini said. “Animals don’t. If you eat, they have to say what is wrong with the environment. That is affecting the animals—that would be great.”

Humans have the ability to say what is wrong with the animals they live or what they eat. Animals don’t. “I could showcase to the world, or even to a few people, how the environment is affecting the animals—that would be great.”

By Faith Robinson
News Editor

The Black Student Union’s third annual Soul Food dinner attracted the largest crowd yet. The number of attendees doubled this year, according to Co-President Capria Davis. “Last year, we had about 50 people and about 30 people, so this year we have doubled our attendance,” Davis said.

The entry fee was only $1, and this year students, staff and MMU alumni attended and supported the BSU. “Tonight was very expressive in the fact that you had spoken word and step routines,” Davis said. “You don’t know what soul food is, some people don’t know what soul food is, some people don’t know what soul food is, but it’s important to us.”

“I liked the food as well; the food was magnificent,” Patrick said. “It’s important because people need to know what soul food is, some people don’t.”

Minervini plans to go to college and eventually get her doctorate. She wants to research marine animals and participate in conservation work as well. “Humans have the ability to say what is wrong with the animals they live or what they eat. Animals don’t. I could showcase to the world, or even to a few people, how the environment is affecting the animals—that would be great.”

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FAITH ROBINSON/TIMES

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