

ISSUE I



THE
ROAR

THE REVIVAL

letter from the

EDITOR

I am so excited to introduce the first edition, issue one, of The Roar student newspaper. I cannot thank my staff enough for all the hard work and dedication through all the late hours spent putting this together. This may sound cliché, but it's absolutely true: this newspaper wouldn't be here without the staff. It was a vision I have chased since coming to Mars Hill University, and after continually being denied, I persevered to create a platform for student voices. I'd also like to thank Dane Secor in Renfro Library for voluntarily conquering this heavy task of advising the newspaper. He's such a great role model for many students with his driven work ethic and outgoing personality.

For the topic of this issue, it was only just to do "Revival." The Roar is reviving the previous student newspaper at Mars Hill University called The Hilltop. The Hilltop was around for more than 80 years with the first publication produced in 1926. Following 1996, the paper moved online for a few years, only to vanish with many rumors left behind about why it magically disappeared. The cover story featured in this issue pays tribute to the previous Hilltop newspaper while also featuring the upcoming changes the university plans to make. Addressing the major questions such as, will there finally be a Chick-fil-A on campus? In addition, the cover acknowledges all the sports teams this year that have achieved great accomplishments under the Mars Hill University name. In a separate story, staff writer Owen Blake addresses the act of revival in the spring sports on campus. How will freshmen revive the legacy many seniors and 5th year players have left on their team? Staff

writer Kiana Tuckett honors members of Mars Hill University who've passed away and the legacy they have left behind on campus. In addition, staff writer Jamie Garcia battles Professor Heather Hawn (Director for Political Science and Pre-Law Studies) in a topic that can make or break a friendship, block versus semester class schedules. This issue contains many stories that most students don't vocalize but are definitely on their minds.

As this school year comes to a close, I hope The Roar newspaper leaves a mark on you. Maybe it leaves you looking to get involved. If you are interested in contributing, feel free to contact me to join this team of amazing writers, photographers, and graphic designers. It's not only a group of students working towards a common goal, but also a place where college friendships are established. However, I don't only want the paper to spark involvement, but more importantly I would like for the stories of revival to help to motivate betterment among yourself as you enter another year at school or move into the workforce. Staff writer, Braxton Robinson, encourages athletes to make a name for themselves with his article covering the new NCAA rules. Regardless of the stories you read, revival is about improvement and renewal of yourself or I hope Owen Blake's article covering Mars Hill fashions helps you find your own voice through apparel. Whether it be a big scale change or something small, hopefully The Roar touches students to take action in life. there is always room for improvement whether that be in the classroom or on the field.

Hannah Rose Frazer

editor-in-chief

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IN MEMORY

As we head into a revitalization of not only the student-led newspaper, but also several aspects of Mars Hill University, we must not forget those whom we have lost. Students. Coaches. Faculty. Each and every one of us make up an irreplaceable part of the Mars Hill University experience, community, and family. We are moving towards a brighter future, yet we shall not lose sight of the sparkling flames of campus that were prematurely dulled.

We look to revere the lives of Daniel Hudgins, J'son Pitts, Cindy Coffey, and Tony Fontanelle. As we look to celebrate their accomplishments and memorialize each of their unique spirits, we also know that their lasting legacies lie within the relationships they built, friends they cared for, and those still at the Hill that continue to honor their name.

Daniel Hudgins

March 1, 2022. Our most recent loss, Daniel was an exemplary student pursuing a Nursing degree, and a member of the Student Government Association and Baptist Student Fellowship.

His Godfather and Professor at MHU, Marc Mullinax writes, "Daniel was adopted from Vietnam. As his godfather, I got to watch him grow up, develop, and cultivate his passion to help others as the nurse he dreamed of being. As he grew, he developed a 200-watt infectious smile that lit up the darkest room or mood. Late last year, Daniel called me to ask that I meet him at the ER of Mission Hospital in Asheville. He thought he had appendicitis. Within a couple of days, that became a liver cancer diagnosis. His passage to his death is the hardest thing I have experienced...ever.

"Daniel came straight out of Vietnam and straight into our hearts. He lived out his passion, married it with compassion, and taught that art. He realized there was no law or limit against generous love of neighbor, and so his life remains a teaching for us here. Thank you, Professor Hudgins!"

As a part of the senior Nursing cohort, Daniel shared close bonds with many of his peers. A few of his fellow classmates share endearing words in memory of him.

"What a Guy! I can only say words cannot express how much of a caring soul he was not only to me, but those around him. This was the friend everyone would say no matter what he would be there for you and that was the truth because he had a place in his heart for

you. Much love buddy." - William Brawley

"Daniel's kindness and willingness to be a friend to all was truly like none other. He was extremely dedicated when it came to academics. I have never met someone who devoted so much time and energy to their schooling. He was definitely a person that if you met him you'd never forget him, due to his kindness. I am extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity of becoming friends with him." - Landry Phillips

"Daniel was a devoted student who never gave up. He was always happy to lend an ear when you needed to rant or ready to study with you if you needed the support." - Cyanne Silvers

J'son Pitts

October 29, 2021. We said our untimely goodbyes in the midst of the falling autumn leaves this past fall semester. A member of the MHU football team and a smiling friend to all, the memorial held for J'son shortly after his passing was accompanied by the solemn faces of hundreds of students, athletes, coaches, professors, and staff. All belonging to many different subgroups of campus and various walks of life, it is undeniable that J'son kind spirit brought a sense of unity rare to such a diverse campus.

Jade Bell, a close friend of J'son and speaker at his memorial, shares thoughts of her time with him cut much too short.

"I am forever grateful for the time I was able to spend with J'son. He touched the life of every single one of us. J'son was the kind of person who befriended everyone regardless of who they were. He was so vibrant and empathetic; all we can do now is embody these characteristics that we remember so fondly. While J'son's memorial was heartbreaking, it was also beautiful to see all those who loved him come together to mourn. I have never before witnessed such open grief and learning together within the community. Only a soul as beautiful as his would have been able to unite so many people."

Leo Bernardes, J'son's roommate freshman year shares his memories of J'son.

"J'son had a contagious vibe that spread to anyone who he met. There was never a time that J'son would not make someone smile. Even through his creativity,

he would make people feel a certain type of way. J'son was passionate about his arts and was always motivated. He made a difference in everyone's lives through his positive mindset, thoughtful actions, and heartening words."

Cindy Coffey

August 29, 2021. After a long hospital stay, our campus and community lost a dedicated member of the Mars Hill University Facilities team. A native to Western North Carolina, Cindy worked diligently as a housekeeper during her time at MHU. She was a smiling face for residents of the Lunsford Apartments, and has been missed dearly by family and friends over the past several months.

April Hamby—a fellow housekeeper of MHU facilities—voices, "Cindy was a joy to work with and always had a smile on her face. She loved her family and talked often about her twin granddaughters. She enjoyed telling funny stories to keep us all laughing. She is missed by so many."

Tony Fontanelle

February 15, 2021. Coach Tony Fontanelle passed unexpectedly during spring of last year. A beloved volleyball coach of 17 years, Coach Fontanelle was a longtime friend and colleague to so many of the staff and faculty of MHU. He was also named to the Mars Hill 2021 Hall of Fame Class in recognition of his diligent and successful coaching career.

Some of Fontanelle's former players share brief words of their fondness of and care for their late coach.

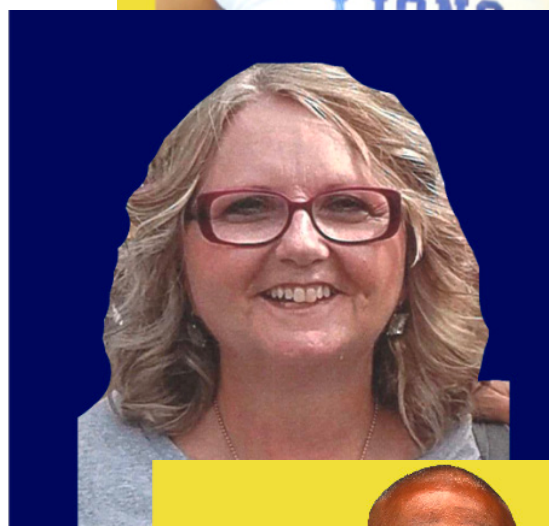
"Thank you so much for everything Coach, I know you're so proud we made the tournament this year." - Sarah Boler

"You are dearly missed Tony. The hill is not the same without you!" - Sarah Goddard

Athletic trainer and good friend of Tony's, Allen Shelley, shares his love for Tony.

"Tony was a good man and friend. The overall health and safety of his student-athletes were always his top priorities. He laid the foundation for our volleyball team's recent success."

While we cannot change the past or control the future, we can strive to value our lives as well as the ones around us and take pride in fulfilling each day's potential. We cannot determine what each new day, year or decade will bring, but we can put our efforts into appreciating each and every one of the unparalleled individuals around us and take comfort in knowing that even those who are no longer with us, may live on through the voices of the countless lives they've touched.



NEWEST NCAA RULES

BRAXTON ROBINSON, staff writer

With constant pressure from college athletes everywhere over the last couple of decades, the NCAA finally gave in and allowed name, image and likeness (NIL) deals for college athletes. For some students, this is amazing news that will change the game for college athletes. But others might be wondering, what exactly does an NIL deal even mean?

NIL deals refer to college athletes and their right to profit from their own personal brands. More specifically, it means that college athletes can sign sponsorship deals, establish their own brands, and charge money for any usage of their personnel. Before July 1, 2021, college athletes could have been punished for signing an NIL deal. The punishments resulted in the ineligibility of athletes, and additionally the loss of scholarship money. This combination of punishment led to many student athletes ending their athletic career before their four years of college. The NCAA previously disallowed any college athlete from receiving money from non-scholarship incomes. Many NCAA officials found it unethical that an athlete could earn money in greater amounts than that of school scholarships and tuition prices.

NIL deals typically follow a four-step process. The first step is finding a deal that either an athlete wishes to pursue, or a sponsor wishes to pursue an athlete. These deals can be found through social media, public advertising, and other branding methods. This step tends to be the most difficult as it sets the foundation for the remain-

ing three steps. The second step of the NIL deal process is signing the contract. Signing the contract puts into perspective the terms, conditions, guidelines, and goals of the deal. Like all contracts, both parties must agree and sign in order for the process to continue. The third step of the process is simply being paid. After following what is outlined in the contract, the company will pay the athlete or provide free merchandise, depending on what is stated in the contract. The final



step is compliance, which is always being monitored. This is to ensure that the athlete is in accordance with what they signed at all times.

Although the process of NIL deals sounds simple, there are many beasts that lie within them. The biggest one is understanding school sponsorships in relation to an athlete's own sponsorships. Here's an example: Hypothetically, as a college soccer player, Under Armor asks me to promote their new line of clothing. I want to take the deal, but first I had to run it through the athletic director. Everything is going perfectly, until the athletic

director says that I am not allowed to sign this deal. The reason being that Mars Hill University is an Adidas school, therefore I can't partner with a rival company.

While this is one example, most schools have similar policies in place that prevent a competing brand from sponsoring one of the school's athletes.

A major question that is typically asked around NIL deals is, "How much money will players be making?" This common question has a variety of answers surrounding it. As unlikely as it sounds, college athletes could make millions of dollars with NIL deals. Viral LSU gymnast and TikTok star Olivia Dunne within the past year has signed an NIL deal with Vuori for almost 1.4 million dollars. Vuori is a luxury activewear and athleticwear company that was formed in 2014. On the other hand, these million dollar NIL deals will likely go towards generational talents in basketball and football. A fraction of the remaining college athletes could make up to tens of thousands of dollars, while the many remaining athletes won't make any money from these deals.

College athletes have been put into a brand new ball game, where the rules are always changing. With the approval of NIL deals, there are so many unknown variables that these athletes are still discovering. While the NCAA is taking steps in the right direction, there are still pressing issues that college athletes face today that need to be addressed.

DRY CAMPUS YET WET COUNTY

BROGAN HEAVNER, staff writer

Madison County is considered a “dry county,” which means that the sale and/or consumption of alcohol is illegal within the county limits. However, certain towns located in Madison County, Hot Springs, Marshall, and Mars Hill, have the right to establish their own rules regarding alcohol and permit the sale of beer and wine but not liquor. Even with the permission of alcohol sales in the town of Mars Hill, Mars Hill University still remains a dry campus, which prohibits the sale/possession/use of alcohol on the university campus by both students and staff. Adults, who are of the legal drinking age in the United States, 21, can’t even enjoy any form of alcohol if they’re on campus. And why is our nation’s drinking age so high compared to other countries? According to the CDC, after all 50 states adopted the policy to change the legal drinking age to 21, there was a 16% decrease in car crashes involving alcohol and an overall significant decline in consuming alcohol, even by legal adults. However, is it really fair to tell someone they can be drafted into a war or vote for government officials, but can’t legally consume alcohol?

Why is the university so against students consuming alcohol if they’re doing so legally? Professor Craig Goforth, who is head of the Criminal Justice Department and an elected Mars Hill official, says that if the university were to allow the consumption of alcohol by students who are 21, then they would essentially be condoning the action and “assuming more liability” for what may occur during the aftermath. Goforth states he understands why the campus regulates alcohol, but he still believes that “students are

going to drink” because as he says, it is an almost “impossible task” to completely stop the consumption of alcohol. If people, especially college students, want to drink, they’ll find a way to do so.

One concern regarding student behavior with alcohol involves the idea of “Blackout Culture.” Blacking out, according to the New York Times “Drinking to Blackout” opinion article, is considered drinking with the intention of “submerging yourself in so much alcohol that you can’t remember what happened” and smaller schools, like Mars Hill University, are “especially conducive” to it. This is why restricting alcohol from not only legal adults, but college kids in general, has the same effect of teenagers wanting to do something their parents told them not to just because they said “no.” It’s like seeing that red button in a movie that the character is told not to press, but does so out of curiosity.

So essentially if the university would rethink its dry campus decision, there may be less alcohol consumption or alcohol-related incidents because students will not have the satisfaction of breaking rules or the excitement of not getting caught. According to American Addiction Centers, a nationwide network of addiction rehab facilities, more arrests related to alcohol are reported on dry campuses than on alcohol-allowing campuses. Isn’t this a clear sign that maybe the strict rules and regulations aren’t actually fixing the problems they were set in place to address? Should Mars Hill University consider changing its rules regarding alcohol, or do they even think this is an active problem on campus?

PHOTOGRAPHY : JARIB POTTS
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INSIDES OF COACHING HANNAH ROSE FRAZER, editor-in-chief

Being raised in the world of sports, many athletes have encountered numerous coaching styles. Either having to get lectured by one's parents on the car ride home after a loss or being pushed to one's physical limits by a competitive coach. Committing to Mars Hill University with an athletic focus, student athletes have experienced or watched teams with a variety of coaching mechanisms. Some athletes may think "the coach wasn't like this in the recruiting process" and others are extremely happy with the system they committed to.

One infamous style of coaching can be seen in the weight room. Every sports' team on campus has either had to wake up at 6 a.m. or come in late during the afternoon for a solid weight lift program run by Coach Jared Carter. Coach Carter is known for his strict policies (wearing Mars Hill University attire, being on time etc.) which must be abided by, and consequences result in leaving the weight room. Yet many students are unaware of the purpose behind the weight room policies. In an interview with Coach Carter, he explains the reasoning behind his inflexible rules and how it contributes to a students' life outside of college. "There is a reason why there are rules set in place. You are expected to be in MHU attire because you will have a job. What happens if you show up to your work in attire you are not supposed to be wearing? You will be sent home," Carter says. Clearly, Coach Carter has a method to his madness; however, for some students, the lack of leniency over the weight room conditions feels unjust.

A style similar to Coach Carter's is displayed by Coach Joseph Turner for men's lacrosse. He is recog-

nizable for his demanding style on the field, yet off the field he is able to personally connect with his players as college kids. When asked about his coaching style in an interview, Coach Turner recognizes both his father and college coach as one of his most influential figures. When speaking about his college coach he claims, "I learned a lot from him. Every generation grows up a little different and being able to relate in age is important. My coach was a lot older than me with a more militant style, so I tried to blend some of that." When watching lacrosse games, it is clear that Coach Turner displays a combative fight on the field for his players, but he is also able to stabilize his emotions following a good or bad play. Regardless of a win or loss he wants to make sure his team is aware of how proud he is. "They certainly give everything they got whether we win or come up short. I try to keep myself as even keel as possible," Turner reports. Coach Turner presents a method of being hard on his players, because he knows that they can achieve anything with hard work.

A team that doesn't get as much recognition as they should is golf. Golf is led by Coach Carlson who is managing both the university's women's and men's golf team while completing his master's program. To undergo such a demanding academic program while also coaching the men's and women's golf teams speaks to Coach Carlson's devotion to golf. Coach Carlson places high emphasis on his team's character. His foundation of coaching is built on a course he took in school called Coaching for Character. "[The



professor] talked a lot about how coaches need to be more emotionally attached to their players. Coaches need to know how a player will react to something you say, so I try to work with the team in ways they can understand,” Carlson says. Since Coach Carlson places high emphasis on character he expects that his team represent not their first name but their last name in life. “I preach a lot on family. I want [the team] to represent more than just [themselves],” Carlson says. Clearly, Coach Carlson’s coaching philosophy is strongly developed on the idea of character.

One coach who classified herself as laid back was the women’s soccer coach, Coach Holly Rawcliffe. Her main attitude towards coaching is positivity through positive reinforcement. “[I want to make] the players feel like they can express themselves, [and] play how they play as individuals by encouraging that to them. If a player makes a mistake, I am not going to get after them about it. It will only make them feel worse by continuing to tell them that they messed up. I encourage them that it is okay to make a mistake, but it’s how they react to that mistake,” Rawcliffe says. Although she defines herself as relaxed, she still holds the players to high standards on the field with expectations of putting in the very best each day. Coach Rawcliffe understands that not everyday will be a great day on the field, but it is still important to put in the maximum amount of effort.

Coach Ross Sons for women’s and men’s tennis places high importance on team relationships. He wants to build strong relationships among teammates and himself. During practice he expects full effort from his

players, but during break he wants it to be a time for relaxation and team bonding.

“There is no point in being intense 100% of the time, because you won’t get anything out of practice,” Sons says. Not only does Coach Sons expect his players to maintain focus and full effort during drills, he also wants his players to create a family atmosphere during both matches and practice. “You have to cheer and support the team,” Sons says. Coach Sons is a coach who expects his players to give the best of their abilities and be there for each other. During every team huddle on match days he reminds the team to “look to your left, look to your right. That is all you got. This is your family.”

Assistant Professor of Health, Human Performance and Recreation, Joy Clifton, is well-rounded in the psychological principles due to her experiences in coaching and exercise studies. “The psychology of coaching has three types of coaches that are characterized by authoritative, cooperative, and submissive coaching. There are examples of all styles across the board, but people who tend to be cooperative style coaches tend to be the most successful with their players,” Professor Clifton says. “They don’t necessarily win the most, but are more successful at producing the better players.” Coaching is not an easy job regardless of the level one is coaching at. A coach must be able to understand players in order to incorporate the individual needs of each player into a team practice.



Living the Legacy

OWEN BLAKE, staff writer

Sports and the student experience:

Sports are an integral part of student life – whether students are on the field or in the stands, the impact of athletes is felt by the collective student body. As many of our seniors prepare to suit up for the last time, we want to sit down and talk about their experience up to this point. We hope that they can give some insight to the young athletes as they prepare to pass the torch.

5th Year Students: Tennis–Tom Farman:

Q: What legacy or tradition do you hope freshmen continue throughout the rest of their athletic career?

A: I hope all new players are made to feel like they belong.

Q: What mark do you hope to leave on your teammates?

A: I hope to leave my teammates with them knowing support is everything. Nothing is more important than the people that surround you. Q: What did you learn from the upperclassmen back when you were a freshman?

A: I learned from the upperclassmen before me that your college career will go by quickly, so make it worth watching. Do not let this opportunity go to waste. It is an honor to be a collegiate athlete.

Lacrosse–Frankie Villeneuve:

Q: What legacy or tradition do you hope freshmen continue throughout the rest of their athletic career?

A: The work hard helmet.

Q: What did you learn from the upperclassmen back when you were a freshman?

A: Buying into the process of being an MHU athlete, cherish what you have here.

Baseball: Tanner Hodgson

Q: What legacy or tradition do you hope freshmen continue throughout the rest of their athletic career?

A: I hope to leave the legacy of understanding what it means to truly give their all on the field whenever they have the chance to do so. For those who are fortunate enough to have gotten the opportunity, collegiate sports will be the last time they tie up their cleats or shoes in the competitive atmosphere that we get to compete in and with here at Mars Hill. I hope that everyone knows that when their senior day arrives they know that they have done everything that they possibly could on the field, in the weight room and in the classroom to help their teams win and succeed.

Q: What mark do you hope to leave on your teammates?

A: I hope to leave the mark that will have led by example and understood what it meant to deal with adversity. Baseball is an incredibly tough game and can be unfair, grueling and even heartbreaking at times. It can also be exciting, heart-felt and bring out the best in players. I hope to leave a mark that will enlighten

and show others what it means to truly deal with adversity and overcome these difficult obstacles, both in life and on the field. With the right mentality, work ethic and surrounding cast I want everyone to know that they can achieve the goals set out as a kid, and if not do everything in their power trying.

Q: What did you learn from the upperclassmen back when you were a freshman?

A: I learned from our upperclassmen that baseball is just a game. To not take what happens on the field directly to heart and be able to still find happiness and fulfillment outside of the game. Baseball has given so many of us as collegiate players we may not have gotten or taken advantage of. However, because of it, we are better off and can take both the memories and people we have met with us for the remainder of our lives.

Swim– Elena Massa

Q: What legacy or tradition do you hope freshmen continue throughout the rest of their athletic career?

A. The birthday seim, I think it's a fun thing to do after practice when it's someone's birthday.

Q: What mark do you hope to leave on your teammates?

A. Being a role model for them in terms of consistency and the effort for swimming.

Q: What did you learn from the upperclassmen back when you were a freshman?

A. That seniors have to be leaders of the team and help the coach with it.

You're up, freshies

When students sign up to play sports for a college, they are agreeing to enter the unknown. While the seniors can give their best advice and try to pave the way for these younger athletes, first-year athletes are the ones responsible for their own choices. Since we will be seeing these faces for years to come, it is important for us to get some perspective into the minds of the young athletes as well.

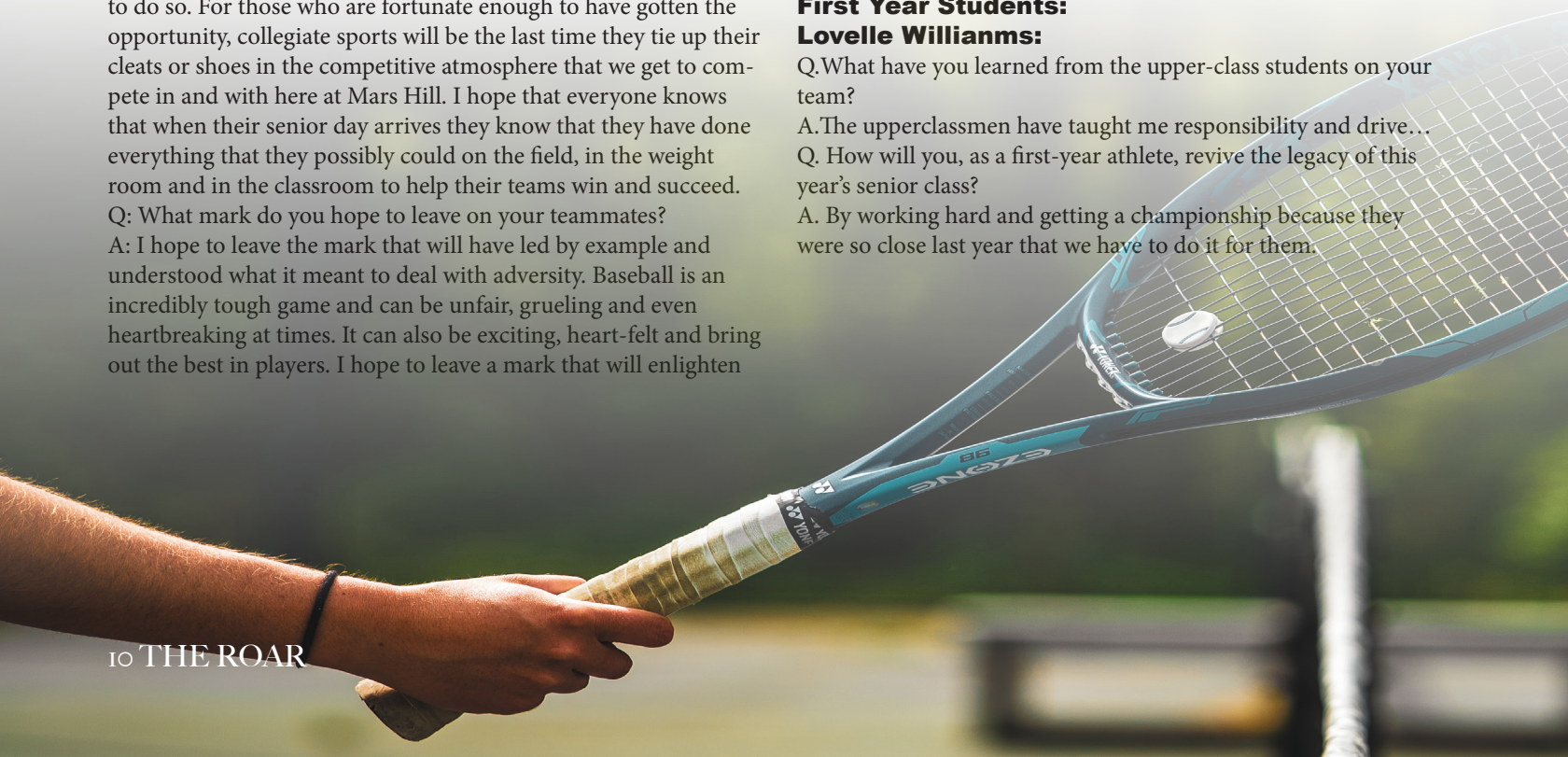
First Year Students: Lovelle Williamms:

Q. What have you learned from the upper-class students on your team?

A. The upperclassmen have taught me responsibility and drive...

Q. How will you, as a first-year athlete, revive the legacy of this year's senior class?

A. By working hard and getting a championship because they were so close last year that we have to do it for them.



Q. How can non-athletes at Mars Hill show support for the athletes on the field?

A. We would like the games to be packed every home game we have.

Baseball—Jack Litowitz:

Q: What have you learned from the upper-class students on your team?

A: Upperclassmen have taught me the importance of learning and holding teammates accountable.

Q: As an athlete, what do you hope to accomplish in upcoming years?

A: I hope to improve overall as a player as well as bring a SAC Championship to MHU!

Q: How will you, as a first-year athlete, revive the legacy of this year's senior class?

A: I hope to continue the change to a winning culture, as the seniors have really emphasized that and have told me how far this program has come since they were freshmen and I hope to continue that.

Lacrosse—Comann Gandy:

Q: What does it mean to you both on and off the field to be a Mars Hill athlete?

A: Being a Mars Hill athlete means a lot to me, knowing I have worked a lot to earn the right to put this jersey on and being able to represent our team in the classroom, as well as battling on the field together to help each other and win.

Q: What have you learned from the upper-class students on your team?

A: Going through the motions isn't going to get you anywhere, and it's about the stuff you do outside of practice that really counts.

Q: How can non-athletes at Mars Hill show support for the athletes on the field?

A: To show support doesn't take much – saying good luck to an athlete on game day or showing up for a game.

Q: How will you, as a first-year athlete, revive the legacy of this year's senior class?

A: As a freshman, I will revive the senior class by teaching upcoming classes what I've learned from them.

Tennis—Season Robertson:

Q: What does it mean to you both on and off the field to be a Mars Hill athlete?

A: Meeting the people on the team and getting to know them always gave me someone to talk with outside of activities. It has filled me with a purpose and given me friendships that could last longer than college.

Q: What have you learned from the upper-class students on your

team?

A: I have learned from them that time here at college is short and that we need to live it to the fullest. One of the older players was stressed at us because we're freshmen who act like this year isn't important because it's our first; it was his last year, and although he didn't play as often as some others, he was disappointed to see any slacking off from our new team members.

Q: As an athlete, what do you hope to accomplish in upcoming years?

A: I hope to be a part of a winning team, whether or not I'm contributing to our wins or supporting from the sidelines. I just want to be involved.

Q: How will you, as a first-year athlete, revive the legacy of this year's senior class?

A: I'm not sure I can exactly "revive" it, but I can step up and follow in their footsteps. I can hold people accountable, act more maturely, and reach out to those on our team that need help.

Swim—Maggie Anders

Q: What does it mean to you both on and off the field to be a Mars Hill athlete?

A. Being a Mars Hill athlete has meant a lot to me. I have met so many lifelong friends and amazing coaches.

Q: How can non-athletes at Mars Hill show support for the athletes on the field?

A. They can show support by showing up to the games. Some of the less well known sports need more support at their home game meets.

Q: How will you, as a first-year athlete, revive the legacy of this year's senior class?

A. I will work hard in and out of the classroom and work to be the best student I can be.

What can you do with this information

What does this mean for students who don't play sports? I'm not an athlete, and I know a lot of people around campus who don't care about sports in general. But we should care. Athletes put their bodies on the line every day in practice and in games so that we can have a fun sport to watch at the end of the day. Sports are a part of the student identity, and the athletes who participate in them represent us all. So next time you see an athlete, ask them how their practice went. Ask them when their next game is – anything to show that you support them, because they go great lengths to support this college and all the students in it.



Revival. Re-viv-al. Noun. A restoration and betterment of the power or state of something. Many students at Mars Hill University should be over familiar with this term, because they are the class that is bringing the meaning of revival to life. The university is flourishing due to the upcoming changes faculty is working to produce and the accomplishments students have achieved.

Recently, an email was sent to the entire faculty and student base at Mars Hill University regarding the exciting news of the university's campus center. The school is naming

Blackwell the new

student center due to its convenient loca-

tion in the middle of campus. Not only

will there be a new building for the

student center, but

also additions will be added to convenience both faculty

and students. Offices as well as student

support centers like the Cothran Center

for Career Readiness, Center for Student and

Residence Life, and the Admissions Welcome Center will now be located inside

Blackwell. This new location for the variety of student services encourages more student-faculty interactions. It adds to the community feeling of the university by not only getting to know

one's professors through a classroom setting, but also for the professor to learn more about their

students externally.

Along with offices and student support now located in Blackwell, the campus gym, new

student dining, and a recreational space will be added into the building. With the idea of

new dining many students have heard rumors speculating about a possible Chick-fil-A. In

an interview, Dave Rozeboom, Vice President for Student Life, answers the question

many students have been asking. "No, there will not be a Chick-fil-A. A lot of people want Chick-fil-A to come here, but [the school] has to meet a certain number and our numbers don't meet the level that would bring that. Granted, as the area continues to grow, then maybe we could get to a point where we get something like that," Rozeboom says. Although Chick-fil-A is a no for now, it is not something that is impossible for the future. Unfortunately, students reading this article probably won't get to experience the glorifying day of brand name food at the university. Currently, the committee for this project has

decided on the kitchen

equipment needed for the dining hall, but

still needs to discuss what will be served, hours for the center, and other details.

The new fitness center will be placed on the third floor of Blackwell overlooking a view of the upper quad. The space will be a similar square

footage of the Taylor Fitness Center,

but the space will be narrower due to the layout

being wrapped around the outside patio of the upper quad. It is not confirmed if there will be new equipment in the gym, but hopes are that there will be additional machinery for students. According to Rozeboom, the project for the new student center should begin in summer if the school meets the funding needs and will hopefully be completed by fall 2024.

Another huge change at Mars Hill University is the silence around campus breaking as The Roar brings student voices back to life. Since 1926, Mars Hill University has had a student run newspaper called The Hilltop. According to Digital North Carolina Blog, The Hilltop had produced 924 issues within the span of 70 years before

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It adds to the community feeling of the university by not only getting to know one's professors through a classroom setting, but also for the professor to learn more about their students externally.

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mysteriously disappearing off campus. Dr. Craig Goforth, associate professor and chair of the criminal justice department, arrived at Mars Hill University 32 years ago and immediately noticed the vibrance of The Hilltop on campus. Dr. Goforth explains, “the stories were relevant and very cutting edge, meaning sometimes people got their feelings hurt, but it was good journalism.” The paper received readership among the Mars Hill community within and outside the school due to the easy spread of hard copies.

There are various rumors swirling around campus regarding the vanishing of the paper. In a conversation with Joy Kish, Alumni Relations, she denies a circulating rumor surrounding the drunk goat. Although previous students of Mars Hill University did drug a community member’s goat which eventually killed the animal, the paper dying has no correlation with this story. Goforth believes the paper slowly died down due to various reasons. “There were budget cuts. It went online and it went from being well manicured and looked after to not quite as much. It eventually fizzled. It didn’t have the reach it used to have, because it wasn’t put out in writing,” exclaims Goforth.

The revival of The Hilltop, now in the name of The Roar, gives students a place to express themselves freely and share how they really feel about events happening within and outside of campus. Professor Brett Johnson, associate professor of sociology, speaks about the need for the university’s community to have a student-run paper. “A newspaper encourages dialogue, information transfer from

administration to students, but also encourages a venue for students to discuss, debate, and dialogue about upcoming changes. It is something administrators would read so they are aware of what students are thinking about,” Johnson says. The Roar fills the missing communication gap between students and faculty.

Along with the physical updates of campus, the university is also working towards improving the diversity in athletics. Starting this year, Mars Hill University created and competed with the new Acrobatics and Tumbling team. There is a lot of complexity behind the definition of this sport, but in simplest terms, it’s a mixture of artistic gymnastics, competitive cheerleading, and acrobatic gymnastics.

However, acrobatic and tumbling coach Coach Shelby Armstrong stresses the importance of the differentiation between acrobatics and tumbling with cheerleading. “You are mostly taking the competitive skills [from cheerleading] and competing on the floor mixing it with artistic gymnastics,” Armstrong explains. The Acrobatics and Tumbling team worked diligently this year to make a name of themselves both in the conference and at the school. According to Armstrong, the team contributes to the school through “bringing a new sport to the school.” It provides the Mars Hill community with another athletic event to support and show school spirit.



Coach Jared Cater has also started working this year to establish an olympic weightlifting team at the school. Carter defines the competitive weightlifting sport as “two lifts: the jerk and the snatch. So, a jerk is pulling a weight from the ground into a front squat position then pressing it over your head. The snatch is pulling the weight straight from the ground over your head.” These events will be broken down into different weight groups for male and female. The athletes that perform the best within the weight classes receive a placement as an award. Carter hopes to create a new atmosphere for student athletes on campus by providing an avenue for those interested in weightlifting as well as challenging

athletes through bringing a new type of athlete onto campus. Carter states that the team will contribute to Mars Hill University by “raising the standard,” because the strongest student on campus is “out of semi-manual testing, the only person deemed bulletproof. He squats 2.5 times his body weight and benches 2 times his body weight. [This] is the only student; whereas, every athlete that is being brought in has that as the standard.” The olympic weightlifting program is a way to challenge other athletes to grow their strength.

Another aspect of revival seen evidently among students and faculty is the achievements of athletics. This year many accomplishments have been made by the hard working student-athlete population. Before naming the ongoing list of impeccable athletic performances, it is important for the Mars Hill University community to understand the demanding lifestyle of student athletes. Being a student athlete has both physical and mental challenges. Not only does a student

represent themselves, but they also represent the school, whether it be at a tournament or even just walking around Ingles with a Mars Hill University Athletics shirt on. Student athletes are constantly being judged and their actions could have an effect on the reputation of both the team they are representing and the university. In addition, student athletes have to manage a chaotic schedule with weights, practice, academics, and socials which can often be overwhelming. Imbalance in such a tight schedule can cause stress or even depression among the athletes; therefore, it is crucial that student athletes take care of their wellbeing in the midst of academics and their seasons.

In the fall many athletes achieved great victories for Mars Hill University. The women’s volleyball team made history for Mars Hill University’s volleyball program. It was the team’s first time making it into the NCAA tournament. The team also qualified for the South Atlantic Conference (SAC) tournament with an overall season record of 21 wins to 13 losses. Jordan Schmucker, the team’s setter,



accomplished 1,000 assists. Jordan states “It felt awesome to get 1,000 assists, and truthfully I didn’t know I could ever accomplish that in my career. It really helped running a 5-1 and having amazing defensive specialists and attackers.” The team worked hard consisting of daily two-hour practices weights, and conditioning in the swimming pool.

Another successful fall sport was men’s soccer. Men’s soccer went through a physically difficult journey in the fall consisting of intense practices. With the team’s devoted hard work, they finished sixth in the conference giving them a spot to play for the SAC championship. In the SAC championship tournament, Mars Hill University men’s soccer finished in second place.

Mars Hill University’s football team also had a game-changing season. Football had a strong, well-rounded team this year with seven players named to 2021 All-SAC. Players included: CJ Thompson, Leondre Andreas, Landon Honeycutt, Tristan Rankin, Ty Snelson, Justin Bullock and Dexter “Debo” Fitzpatrick Jr. Football also qualified for the SAC conference tournament and came in second place, tied with Le-noir-Rhyne University and Wingate University.

The Mars Hill University swim team had individual swimmers who placed high in the conference. For the men’s swim team, Matthew Goslin, Thomas Gibson, Sam Brookes and

Ronin Petit made finals at conference.

Elena Massa, Ellie McLain, Sarah Johnson and Brianna Tosh made finals in conference for the women’s swim team. In order to make finals for the conference, these swimmers had to make the top 24 in each event.

Spring sports also had an outstanding season for the university. Baseball made the playoffs and is ranked eighth in the conference. There were three players on the team who were selected for the All-SAC. The players include Zach Weaver, Tyler Lala and Kyle Jenkins.



GRAPHIC: TORI FRANKLIN
PHOTOGRAPHY: LEAH MATNEY



Not only was baseball athletically strong seen by their qualification for playoffs, but the team also managed to maintain high academics in the midst of their intense practices. Tanner Hodgson finished a four-year degree in three years without any credits before coming into the university. “I was tasked with time managing 21 credits every semester both in and out of season and maintained a 3.9 GPA

throughout my time here as a student,” Hodgson explains.

Women’s lacrosse also had a record-breaking season. The girls team won seven games, which beats the women’s lacrosse school record for number of games won. The Mars Hill University women’s lacrosse team also beat Newberry College, which is currently ranked sixth in the conference. This defeat is something the women have never accomplished until this year. Senior Gini Joy broke

the lacrosse record for number of career saves with 300 during her time here.

Teams at the university have triumphed this season, bringing respect back to the title of Mars Hill University in athletics. The school as well as the students and faculty who encompass the university are working towards reviving the Mars Hill University name. This year has been about making a

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name for oneself and changing Mars Hill University from being the small school that no one has heard of to a name that deserves recognition for all the amazing things being accomplished and put in place at the university.

GRAPHIC: TORI FRANKLIN
IMAGE: CANVA

Car ride tunes

Whether you're driving home from a long semester or cruising down the highway, these songs are sure to get your head bopping! From 2010 throwbacks to pre-2000s classics, this playlist will surely have you singing at the top of your lungs. Enjoy songs from Justin Bieber, Paramore, the spotlight artist Rex Orange County, and more!

1. Faster Car | Loving Caliber
2. The Shade | Rex Orange County
3. Higher | Blanks
4. Change My Mind | Peach Tree Rascals
5. Sunroof | Nicky Youre
6. Can't Stop | Red Hot Chili Peppers
7. Shotgun | George Ezra
8. New Light | John Mayer
9. Fresh Eyes | Andy Grammer
10. Morning | Marc E. Bassy
11. Serotonin | Nic D
12. Sunday Morning | Maroon 5
13. Ain't It Fun | Paramore
14. Babe | Sugarland, Taylor Swift
15. Hey, Soul Sister | Train
16. Peaches | Justin Bieber
17. Friends | Laundry Day
18. Only Wanna Be With You | Hootie & the Blowfish
19. Sunflower | Post Malone
20. Feels | Calvin Harris



BATTLE OF THE ARTIST

EDGAR MIRANDA, staff writer

Pop culture today is recognized by society as a set of the practices, beliefs, and people; it encompasses the activities and feelings produced from interaction with these traits. Nothing is more prevalent in today's culture, than that of renowned musicians/rappers Megan Thee Stallion and Cardi B. Known for their bold presence in society and mainstream media, they can be seen as the torch bearers of identity, self-realization, self-love, and belief in one's own abilities to grow and succeed in life.

Megan, a Grammy-winning rapper, publicly and directly confronts issues that not only appear in today's world, but also in the overall history of gender, race, and sex issues surrounding women. The latest song she collaborated with Dua Lipa, "Sweetest Pie," alludes to the woman's body and attractions that it holds to entrance men. The song uses explicit and sexual innuendos, such as "body looking nice, I got cake and I know he want a slice," or "I might take you home with this, I might give you all of it." As many initially think of the lyrics, it may seem like she's showing off women as just tools to be used or objectified, but a more in depth interpretation explains that men are attracted and wish to have "a slice of the sweetest pie," causing control and authority over men. Issuing confidence and body positivity, as well as an overall sense of control over their own bodies. Megan essentially conveys through her writing and music that women are empowering beings who do not allow some guy to take advantage of.

In contrast, Cardi B (another Grammy winner) has more specifically grabbed society's attention through social media with a tough and frank attitude about her life as an exotic dancer. Rising from the bottom through social media, to a reality star in "Love & Hip Hop: New York," to having a number one single on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2017 with "Bodak Yellow." In this song she embraces her past as an exotic dancer and how she overcame that

stage of her life. She mentions her accomplishments by the line, "I don't dance now, I make money moves," referencing her livelihood working as an exotic dancer in New York City. This line also expresses how she no longer dances in order to make money. The significance of this song not only includes her beating Taylor Swift for the top Billboard Chart spot as an underdog, it also revolves around her being the first solo woman rapper to be on the top of the Billboard Chart since 1998. These achievements clearly exemplify how even a woman who comes from the bottom can rise to the top without having to be a man.

Furthermore, it is important to note that these two rappers at some point did work together. For a while there was the idea of a feud, as the entertainment industry still placed women against each other. Megan publicly denied that idea and later on went to work with Cardi to dominate the music charts in 2020 with their hit song, "WAP." It was an empowering song about women enjoying sex, sensuality and sexuality. It was an empowerment of body positivity and a contradiction to the behavior of women from the standard gender norms.

Ultimately in the world's battle between the two rappers, if I had to choose one over the other, I would choose Megan Thee Stallion, as I find her music to not only be empowering to all women around the world in embracing who they are, their sexuality, and encouraging them to be more than what the world has set as a standard for them, but how she exhibits strong confidence and influence that changes the world in a positive manner.



GRAPHIC: SANTOS GONZALEZ

IMAGES: ISTOCK
CARDI & MEGAN: Adapted from Chrisallmeid <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cardi_B_Photo_by_Chris_Allmeid_\(cropped\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cardi_B_Photo_by_Chris_Allmeid_(cropped).jpg)>, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons
Adapted from Ashley Graham <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Megan_Thee_Stallion_on_Ashley_Graham_September_2021.png>, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

tom franklin:

I think of fashion as an outlook of expressing yourself as an individual in a creative way. We look upon aesthetics that are visually appealing and piece together styles that represent who we are. No one has the exact same style, but rather similar interests, and that helps build character and define ourselves. I see myself as someone who doesn't have one specific style. I like to combine different styles depending on the day and what event or outing I would be attending. Living in Florida my whole life, I have always enjoyed the ocean and see that as a big inspiration for myself. I love the boho style with neutral colors that compliment the environment.

santos gonzalez:

It shows how comfortable I am with my sexuality. I'm very flamboyant and I'm inspired by '90s-style high-waisted shirts tucked under the jeans kind of thing. I hope my clothes would show others that any style of clothing that is not considered "trendy" or "now" could still be worn regardless of it's "dated."

adam sellers:

Fashion has helped me gain confidence in myself from a really young age. I started dressing in alternative fashion when I was in the third grade and my expression has grown since then. Usually, my inspiration comes from famous people. I mostly look at the singer YUNGBLUD's outfits but put my own twist on it. It makes me happy to have the freedom to dress myself up on a small campus without the fear of judgment. You can be different and that's OK. It's OK to be expressive and it's OK to be yourself. No matter what anyone else thinks.

stylin our

Not many things can beat the feeling of putting on the right clothes. The first opinions people form about us come from how we dress. Our personalities that can be unrelated or even collide, every person expresses themselves. Fashion is the link that helps us better understand each other. Styling yet unique styles were interviewed to share their experiences.



As readers learn about different fashions through the course of the year, they can express themselves for just a minute and understand the world through the eyes of others. That regardless of one's background, each person is writing their own story and adds layers to one's character. Some days, sweatpants and a t-shirt can be as iconic as an inner Lady GaGa and wear something so shocking it turns heads. No matter what someone chooses, there is no wrong choice. Fashion is for everyone. We hope to share the experiences of our readers to

and wildin

right outfit. Our clothing becomes an extension of our bodies. y we present ourselves to the world. Even though fashion reveals y person who pursues fashion shares a common desire to express erstand and accept one another. A variety of students with con- share and maybe influence others with their creative art.



course of this article, it is hoped that society will step out of through the lens and style of another. By now, it is apparent ing their own unique story, and the clothes he or she wears d a t-shirt cut it, whereas, other days, we might channel our urns the heads of everyone in the room. Regardless of what or everybody, and as a society it is important to encourage all rs to dress freely.

danielle pant:

Fashion alternates. At times, it's a little bit of everything. I don't limit myself to one style, but my style is mostly between chic and Avant-garde. Currently, I like playing around with combining styles, such as dressy and sporty. I would describe my style as different yet simple. Sometimes simple, sometimes different. At times, I feel less is more and then other times I go for just the opposite. I like to give myself a little edge or twist at times. Fashion is fun and it should have everything to do with you and not others. It's the desire to just be different and express myself uniquely. Cutting up my clothes and turning them into something new also always gets me inspired. I hope my clothing inspires others to tap into their own sense of individuality. For people to feel they can wear whatever they want and it can make sense. Personally, when I see other people dressing more unique and stylish, I feel inspired and motivated to keep doing me/being me. Being unique or well dressed shouldn't be uncomfortable. I like the idea that fashion has no rules.

hannah rose frazer:

My style of fashion is very diverse. I get inspired from various genres of fashion and like to mesh them together to create my own modern look. I think the best way to describe myself is Chic Fashion Style. Resembles Kim Kardashion. I would describe my style of being plain clothes styled in a dressy way. My fashion always has a neutral color, (black, white, gray) paired with something more exotic. I want to make a statement of self-confidence. I wear what I want, not to please anyone else, but to feel good in my own skin.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SANTOS GONZALEZ
GRAPHIC: TORI FRANKLIN



WAR EFFECTS ON MARS HILL STUDENTS

EDGAR MIRANDA, staff writer

As we approach the end of spring semester, we are almost three months in since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine. The Russian attack on Ukraine has not only displaced an untold number of Ukrainian citizens, but has also killed or injured thousands. The war has emotionally and physically affected civilians all over the world including international students at Mars Hill University.

Students at Mars Hill University, including those similar to Peter Ploughman whose home is Denmark, have been affected by the Russian-Ukraine war. During an interview with Ploughman, he was asked about his perspective on the war in Ukraine and answered with his own self-guided research of the crisis stating, “If the war in Ukraine escalates and Russia shuts off the gas to Europe, it will have significant consequences for the Danish economy. It appears from material from the Ministry of Finance and will be presented at a press conference: ‘The invasion primarily affects people in Ukraine. But it will also have significance in the rest of the world. It will matter to us. We will be affected. Overall, I fear the war and the consequences for my people.’” We can come to understand his worries over the economic consequences as Americans began to feel the impact with high prices in gas and food beginning to mount.

Furthermore, he touched on how this conflict will affect his return to Denmark in the upcoming summer break. Ploughman claims, “Inflation and economic crisis. The summer will not be as we wanted. Everything will be more expensive.” He also mentions his views on whether he sees an end to the war and if so, what did he believe would happen next. In response he stated, “No, I think that this is the start of World War III. The next war is against NATO, and Denmark is a part of NATO.”

Clearly, there is a fear of returning home and a further increase in tension to the point of another deadly world war. Other college students around the United States share similar views as Ploughman regarding leaving their homes. The Russian-Ukraine conflict not only has caused worries and fear, but it has also begun to affect academic success of

international students personally affected by the war. In an NPR article published online titled “Ukrainian students in the U.S. watch a war on their homeland unfold from abroad,” a Ukrainian student describes how the war has impacted her life in the United States. “School is one area, but this is ... not of the greatest importance right now,” says Tetiana Tytko, a Ph.D. student at the University of Maryland who grew up in western Ukraine. “Going to a protest, raising my voice, raising money, like sharing resources how people can donate — I think that’s more important right now than just with exams or, you know, homework.”

Ultimately, it isn’t a mystery that Russia and the United States hold nuclear weapons, and that the consequences of a further increase in conflict between Russia and Ukraine are just as disastrous for the rest of the world as it is for Denmark and other international students. . This war could in the end lead us down a path we were before with allies taking sides and a new reality of Nuclear War.

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Professor / Student :

Block vs Semester Schedule



PROFESSOR

HEATHER HAWN JD, PhD, Program Director Political Science and Pre-Law Studies

As most of us at Mars Hill remember, the shutdown due to COVID occurred during our spring break in 2020. We immediately went completely online and Zoom became our primary method of finishing the semester. Administration decided to try seven-week “blocks.” Initially, this plan seemed sensible, since students would be getting the same number of instructional hours, just intensified and shortened. Many faculty welcomed the change because, with only two or three classes per block, it was thought, students could better focus on the course material. I would argue that the opposite occurred. It seemed that classroom attention spans were greatly diminished by other causes. This may be the result of the longer class times and more preparation, caused students to feel overwhelmed and class disinterest seemed endemic. Students already challenged by reading and analyzing 40+ pages of course material per class found it near impossible to read/analyze 100+ pag-

es. These observations by many of our faculty are anecdotal, but empirical research into “block programs” reveal findings that are fairly evenly split regarding student learning and retention.

Setting these observations aside, however, there are several problems with the seven-week blocks. (1) Missing just one class involves missing an entire week of course work. This is especially problematic for athletes and students in other school-related activities requiring travel as students often miss at least one or two days even in a seven-week time period. Making up this extensive missed work was completely overwhelming. (2) Our pedagogical goals include helping students move into “the world of work” which can involve developing research/writing skills, group projects, presentations, etc. The shortened schedules eliminate “stair-stepping” projects and good instructor feedback on the stages of development. (3) There is almost no room to deviate from the coursework

for a particular day. This is especially problematic in my field, political science, as students often want a break to discuss the events of the week. It is difficult to get back on track and teach the content students need to understand after we have spent an hour talking. (4) This is the most important concern: it is difficult to get to know students, be a part of their lives, and create a welcoming community when we only have them for seven short weeks. It often takes me two or three weeks to learn everyone’s name (and sometimes longer!) and building rapport takes far longer than that. Students do not feel comfortable talking in class, especially about politics, if they do not yet trust me to treat them with respect. They do not have the opportunity to get to know the other students and form study relationships. These only come with time and seven weeks is simply not enough time.

STUDENT

JAMIE GARCIA, staff writer

For some students the idea of returning to a block schedule is horrific! However, students often have a misconception of the idea regarding block schedule due to the misunderstanding of how these faults can actually be used for the student’s benefit.

Coming in as a freshman in the COVID year, the block schedule was much more of a comfort. The block schedule was something that the previous classes were accustomed to, and it offered a workload that students were able to ease into. A first-year mentor, Alondra says, “a lot of the time, first year students were telling us that they like the block schedule better because the classes are split between two blocks. So it’s spread out and they like it better like that.” Of course this leads to the struggle of falling behind or feeling rushed in a seven-week course. Because of this, I thought it best to speak with someone who had more experience with both schedule options. Kevin May, a senior, said, “it gave me more time to prepare and it was less on my schedule, like the classes were faster. Yes, I think there was more time in class, but my schedule wasn’t as packed. If you

could manage your time then it could work out better.” If used right, the block schedule could be less stressful for a busy student.

The main concern to students is the hour-and-a-half long classes and endless lectures. No one wants to sit in a classroom doing nothing for an hour. However, this responsibility falls onto the instructor. Block schedules can help professors be more creative in their lesson planning, and be able to carry a healthy discussion throughout the class. I have had classes that I never wanted to leave because of our discussion. With such intense hours in the class, the students and professors engage in the lesson and it is easier to build relationships with each other. “I feel like when you’re in a class the whole semester there is more potential that you lose interest in the class,” said Paul Penderman, soon-to-be graduate.

Of course, there are more benefits to the block schedule. If you were to fail a class in block one, you could possibly take the class again in block two. If you missed a day of class, it would only affect half of your

classes, and with the extra time you have, it won’t be too hard to catch up. As students, our priority should be learning and getting our degree efficiently. The normality of the semester schedule has grown routine and caused many young adults to burn out in their quest for higher education. There’s no question that the semester schedule may be more efficient and clear to the eye for the faculty, but maybe we should question if the most “efficient” schedule is the healthiest for the students. With the semester schedule, we have to be in full power mode 100% of the time, we lose sleep and so much personal time. I mean come on, we’re in our 20s! We’re still going to have a lot of work to do in seven weeks, but we’ll have time to do it. All we want is a schedule that can work for us. A schedule that gets you excited for class discussions, or if you hate the class, then a schedule that gets you excited for classes to change. A schedule that’s freeing but requires self-discipline. A schedule that has time for class, time to study and time for a nap. Isn’t that something we all want?

DO BETTER MARS HILL UNIVERSITY

LEANN CROTTS, staff writer

Welcome to Mars Hill University. If you're new here, let me give you a special tour of all the wrong things the university has to offer. That way there will be no surprises, and before you commit you can assess the school before entering what you think will be the best four years of your life. That's what college is about right? Being able to get out and explore what's new, find yourself, find your friends and figure out what you're going to be doing with a piece of paper that you've spent thousands of dollars on. No parents and especially no curfew.

For all the freshies, you get the special treatment of the "Stairway to Heaven" also known as the "Freshman Climb." Don't worry, most if not all upperclassmen had to do it too. So don't think you're having to endure it alone. The Stairway to Heaven is the climb many of you will have to endure every day in order to get to your dorms if you live in Laurel, Gibson, Turner or Brown. The climb begins behind the cafe and all the way to Heaven. It's a fun game of holding your breath every time a student walks by, so they can't hear you panting. Isn't that so considerate and sweet, Mars Hill University made that climb just for us to strengthen and better our lungs!

I remember my climb vividly. It was 10:30 p.m. I was planning on meeting with one of my friends who lived in Brown. It was winter too, and ice was still on the ground along with a bit of snow. I stared at the stairs. You've got to be kidding me I thought. The staircases are wooden blocks angled so far up you've got to bring up your knee to your chest to be able to reach and take one step – just one. By the time you're at the halfway point, you're out of breath, sweating all the water you have drank for the day, and starving. At that point, you're dreaming of a concession stand right about there or at least I was. And if there's ice, good luck, because that is one of the easiest ways to end up at the Student Health Center – IF they are open and IF you can crawl from one side of the campus to the other.

The next stop on the tour is the parking availability for all the students. Not much to be said, because there's not much. Most lots available now are the commuter and staff parking lots. Thankfully, they got rid of most of the 15 minute parking spots. There is no way I'd be in and out of the cafe or even in class by that time. For the freshmen, four different dorms (Laurel, Gibson, Turner and Brown) all have

to squeeze into one lot. If you're lucky, you might be able to get the spots along the side of the hill in front of the dorms. Again, a huge IF there. In addition for those living in the freshmen dorms, many students do not know how to park which eliminates a few open spots. It's hard to park a car next to someone parked sideways over the line. That's just enough stress to cover how much we pay for parking.

For athletic leisure, you can go on down to the gym located in Wren. However, if you want to get a late-night pump, you will stumble upon a room with all the lights off and doors locked. So, it isn't very accommodating if you have a full day of classes and practice. However, if you are lucky enough to get into the gym during their open hours, make sure to bring hand sanitizer to wash off the black residue coming from the dumbbells. Having clean weights is no biggie. Head on over to the baseball field and watch our MHU baseball team play. Watch out though, one foul ball can end up in your lap because unlike most fields, we don't have a foul net to protect the stands. The greenway is also located alongside the baseball field, but don't run/walk by during a game. It'll be hard to hear the "WATCH OUT!" through AirPods or maybe the crowd is feeling shy and won't bother saying anything at all.

Onto our food offerings. If you are international, the university closes the cafe over breaks, so you have to buy your own food. I couldn't imagine how stressed out I would be. My freshman year, pre-COVID, the Lion's Den used to offer everything that was actually on the menu. I never thought that I would miss cheese quesadillas. That's how they get you though, it is still on the menu, still pretending that they serve more than three items. They also had buffalo chicken wraps, any quesadilla that you wanted, and an ice cream bar. Also, what happened to our egg sandwiches at Hilltop Cafe? For over three weeks they were gone. They just stopped serving them. Trust me, I asked everyday after my 8 a.m. class. So, what happened? COVID snatched away our quesadillas, wraps, and egg sandwiches? Or the university got lazy. Who knows? One thing I do know is that we deserve better and we have had better. I'm stepping off my soap box for now.

IMAGE: WYATT INVESTMENT RESESRCH
PHOTOSHOP: TORI FRANKLIN



HOUSING HORRORS

BROGAN HEAVNER, staff writer

Does anyone need some Advil to cure their headache from this year's housing situations? It's inevitable to argue that this year's housing selection was absolutely atrocious. Students getting relocated from dorms they currently live in, others having to downgrade dorms, and some even having to select a dorm with random roommates. It's never been a problem in the past getting into the dorm you're willing to pay for or even living with your friends. But this year, chaos ran wild. Could this be a side effect of the "Big House" being shut down? Or is this a result of off-campus housing becoming more limited every year?

With the controversy surrounding the Big House and the stain it left on the reputation of university students, many juniors and seniors are struggling for off-campus housing. Recently, a group of 5th year students living in an apartment along Bailey street has experienced issues with their landlord. Zac Carriagn, a 5th year lacrosse player living in the house explains an altercation this year with the landlord, "we would have only a close group of friends over just hanging out and playing some music. Our neighbors complained about the noise, and we were only warned about our noise twice.. On

the second warning we were told that if we were to get another noise complaint, eviction would be the next step. We even tried to explain that we talked with our neighbors the first time the complaint was filed and we were willing to work with them, but the landlord didn't seem to care and told us that it is what it is." Landlords have not been as lenient with college students as they were in the past; it's becoming more rare to find someone willing to rent to students. College students have been stigmatized by not just landlords but also other renters as obnoxious and inconsiderate causing many landlords to think twice before handing apartment keys to someone with a Mars Hill University sticker stuck on the rear window of a car. Students have to undergo a multitude of obstacles in order to gain the trust of landlords. With hardly any affordable and open options to live off-campus, students are resorting back to on-campus housing. Thus causing an overflow of people trying to get into the best housing available (i.e., Lunsford, Azalea, and Dickson Palmer). This excess of students has made housing utilize waitlists and students have to choose other options. The 122 students that are currently on the waitlist for Lunsford

are having to make the tough decision between Fox and Huffman, which are notorious for their no AC, dirty water, and overall nasty living conditions.

Not to mention the maintenance and pest problems that come from living in even the "country club" freshman dorms. Many students, who even pay to live in premium dorms, have suffered from issues such as their ac/heating system not working, and in my experience, bugs coming out of light fixtures. In addition, students being quarantined were stuck in the Edna dormitory. One student claimed it to be "unlivable" during the time spent in quarantine with the obvious signs of poor maintenance and unhealthy sanitation quality. But without at least junior/senior credits or written approval from the residence life administration, students are forced to live in these conditions, which just adds unnecessary stress to their already stressful college lives.

How will the school handle these issues? Will the waitlisted students being promised a spot in Lunsford be ignored? Will on-campus housing ever be updated to reflect the cost of tuition? Or will student living conditions ever be a priority in Mars Hill University's budget?

GRAPHIC: TORI FRANKLIN

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