

Stangs Fall Short



Disaster Simulation on Page 5

A SENIOR GOODBYE :

*THIS SOCIAL BUTTERFLY
IS FLYING AWAY*



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBEKAH GARDNER

REBEKAH GARDNER
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

If you have ever seen me at a Wichitan meeting, you have probably heard me say something along the lines of, "I don't know how any of this works, I'm just here for the vibes." Truth be told, I am going to miss these vibes. I may not know much about journalism, but I do know that I have found a fantastic community amongst these extremely talented students. They all embraced my ideas and helped me better my own work ethic. Most of all, I have shared so many laughs. Everyone involved in the Wichitan has proved to me that I am as funny as I know I am. I have not been involved with the Wichitan for very long since I applied as social media manager on a whim, but I have had the time of my life working here. I feel privileged to have gotten to share the hard work of the Wichitan staff to fellow Mustangs, the Wichita Falls area and beyond. Our following has grown exponentially since I started back in Spring of 2022, and I cannot wait to see how much more we grow after I have crossed that stage. Speaking of which- if you haven't already, make sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X (Twitter). Peace out!



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBEKAH GARDNER

SGA deliberates on end-of-year bills

GEORGE SVOBODA
MANAGING EDITOR

The SGA held their final meeting on Nov. 28, 2023 to vote on bills senators worked on throughout the fall semester.

The overwhelming majority of senators passed two bills: the Mustangs Pantry Expansion Act by Brandon Goins and the Bill to Increase Graduate and Professional School Fairs by Zetta Cannedy and Gage Oliver.

The Mustangs Pantry Expansion Act will add study materials such as notebook paper, writing utensils and calculators to the Mustangs Pantry. The bill requires the SGA to run a donation drive at least once a semester, and asks on-campus colleges and organizations to run their own donation drives

or donate to the SGA drive. It is set to take effect in Spring 2024.

The Bill to Increase Graduate and Professional School Fairs will have MSU host recruiting programs for professional and graduate schools, opening opportunities for soon-to-be graduates and contributing to the reputation of MSU.

Four more bills were retracted for revision, and their senators will bring them back for discussion in the future.

The SGA approved two campus community fund requests for Alpha Phi Omega and the Black Student Union. APO will use funding to purchase scripts and the right to have plays for BIPOC students to perform in. The BSU is planning on using their funds to help pay for

the Black Excellence Gala and Pageant, among other events.

The SGA also approved two SLF funds, one for Omega Delta Psi, and one for Redwine Honors.

SGA President Zetta Cannedy opened the meeting by telling the SGA that they were the hardest working group she had worked with.

"I think when we really push Senate to write the legislation, and really just start to form their own ideas, that you don't have to be in an executive position or a cabinet position to write legislation," Cannedy said, "They produced some great pieces of legislation. Some of them are going to require some revision, but they're only making them stronger."

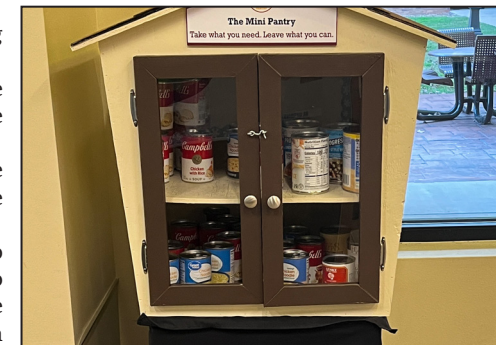


PHOTO BY GEORGE SVOBODA | THE WICHITAN
The Mustangs Pantry is located at the Legacy Commons, Dec. 11.

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Brown Marsden talks plans as provost

GEORGE SVOBODA
MANAGING EDITOR

Midwestern State University named Dr. Margaret Brown Marsden as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs on Dec. 8, 2023. She will officially begin on January 1st, 2024. Brown Marsden has served as interim provost since January, and was previously dean of the McCoy College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering.

Brown Marsden started at MSU in 2015 as a faculty member, working her way up to chair, then associate dean.

"Having been a dean, I recognize the work that deans have to do. So I can make sure that I preserve and respect their autonomy in their own roles, while at the same time recognizing that they're part of the team that the provost's office uses to help accomplish the university's goals," Brown Marsden said.

Brown Marsden says learning new aspects of her career as she works is important to her. While searching for provost positions, Brown Marsden achieved a certificate in diversity and inclusion from Cornell University.

"That was really helpful to sort of think about, the language, and the ways that you manage human diversity and inclusion in your operation and organization," Brown Marsden explained, later adding, "My philosophy has been to read as much as possible and to try to belong to groups that have academic leaders."

Brown Marsden addressed three main academic barriers for students: difficulty

navigating through degrees, lack of collaboration across campus and lack of imagination in how MSU operates.

"So how do we rethink the way to approach those barriers that students experience, whether it's a class is not available, or they don't have a degree program that they want or they experience a life event that makes it really hard for them to finish their degree," Brown Marsden said.

Brown Marsden commented that the First Year Mustangs Adventure class is breaking the collaboration barrier across campus, with different offices and staff participating and teaching. She also mentioned first year seminars, which involve students as instructors, as expanding cross-campus collaboration.

When it comes to imagination, Brown Marsden says there is opportunity for change in higher education across the country.

"How can we reimagine how we're doing things and taking some input from students and faculty and staff to say, 'Okay, let's imagine this a different way,'" Brown Marsden said.

Working past these barriers is a long-term goal, which Brown Marsden recognizes.

"And I think we can do that, then we can bring in more students, we can retain more students," she said.

Brown Marsden said issues with student registration is a major concern of hers, and she says she wants to work on those issues going forward.



PHOTO BY SAM DIFIORRE | THE WICHITAN

Provost Margaret Brown Marsden addresses the audience at a forum, Nov. 29.

"Things like holds on student registration. That's a lot, that's a big barrier for them to be able to register, it could be a really tiny financial hold. How do we take those out for students? How do we improve the path to degree?" Brown Marsden said.

She described an internal program MSU uses to help students graduate in a timely manner. Part of the program helps students locate "unicorn classes," which are courses that are rare, but required to graduate.

Part of Brown Marsden's plan to improve academic life across campus includes changing the writing proficiency requirements by replacing the writing proficiency exam.

MSU's administration is going to work with deans and programs over the next year to decide on how to best replace the exam.

"Most schools that don't have an exam either have writing in the discipline or writing in the curriculum, what I think our approach is going to be is writing in the discipline," Brown Marsden said.

Writing in the discipline means students will have courses and work designed around their major to complete, rather than taking a generalized exam like in previous years. The WPE will not be required for students graduating after August 2024.

One of the goals of President Haynie's administration is to improve MSU and Sheppard Air Force Base relations. Brown

Marsden said that one way to strengthen that bond is by creating a track for servicemembers to obtain degrees in a way that will work for them, and to offer higher education to officers looking for promotion.

Sheppard is hosting two events: an airshow in the spring, which MSU will attend, and a S.T.E.A.M. event for high schoolers.

"We're going to try to participate in that S.T.E.A.M. event and there's a chance that we can have some opportunities for our students to get out there too, an MSU brand to be out there to talk to people," Brown Marsden said, adding, "I've been to a couple of air shows at Sheppard and we've never had that kind of connection. And this time we're really going to build a connection."

Despite her tenure as interim provost, Brown Marsden went through the same selection process as the other candidates.

"Which would include the application, and the, you know there's a post application questionnaire, and then there's a Zoom interview, and then there was the campus interview. So every single step that everybody else had to take," she said, "But what's good for the campus, I think, is to have a second look. So I served in one role here on campus, am I the right person for this other role on campus? And so, everybody gets to look at the qualifications, the stuff I do, and so, I'm glad this process happened. I'm certainly glad to be here," she added.



PHOTO BY SAM DIFIORRE | THE WICHITAN

Margaret Brown Marsden was appointed provost on Dec. 8., Nov. 29.

Alumni association opens time capsule

MADISYN BUTLER
REPORTER

On Monday, Nov. 20, MSU opened a time capsule from 1983, finding a collection of items and photos.

Leslee Ponder, director of MSU alumni relations, said she was excited to see everything that was in the box. She explained how every student organization was invited to place something in the box.

"There were like cassette tapes of old board of regents meetings. There was a reel-to-reel, like a motion picture film," Ponder said, "ROTC, which we had an active ROTC unit at that time, they had made a video. There was all kinds of neat stuff."

She also discussed how times have changed since the 1980s. "There was lots of sports memorabilia and schedules. All of the schedules had Coors Light or Bud Light," Ponder explained, "On the scoreboard, I think

it's so interesting, it was sponsored by Winston Light Cigarettes."

The large box was buried six feet underground and it only took a small amount of water damage during its time in the ground.

"Most everything was really well preserved," Ponder said, "It was solid metal and the top was bolted every three inches."

One item in the capsule was a letter from former President Rodriguez, in which he explains his predictions for the year 2023.

"The letter was so incredible," Ponder said. "It was of course typed on a typewriter, and it tells a lot about what was going on."

All items from the time capsule can be looked at in the archives located in the library.

"Everything is sitting on the dock of the library. They are slowly, but surely, taking everything out," Ponder explained, "They'll keep all this and it'll be labeled from the time capsule."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLEE PONDER; DIRECTOR OF MSU ALUMNI RELATIONS
Items placed by MSU alumni in the time capsule, Nov. 20.

Finals Frenzy alleviates student stress

SABRINA HARRISON
REPORTER

MSU's University Programming Board hosted its semi-annual Finals Frenzy event on Thursday, December 7.

Finals Frenzy is an event that UPB holds every semester in order to help students destress and decompress before finals. Lala Lay, one of the event's coordinators, said the purpose of Finals Frenzy is for students to

enjoy an event before finals.

"The goal always stays the same, just for students to relax and have fun," Lay said.

The theme was "escape from finals," so the coordinators decided to theme the event around space. This theme made way for activities such as alien bowling, Play-Doh planets, glow-in-the-dark trashketball, galaxy slime and marshmallow constellations.

Though Commanche Suites held most of the themed activities of the evening, UPB included many non-themed events as well. This included an 8-ball and ping-pong tournament, a polar express ride with Fantasy of lights, and even a mechanical bull in the atrium.

"Students always have a positive reaction to the bull, so it's something we always bring back every now and then," Lay explained.

The mechanical bull was not the only activity that students were excited for. A group of students who attended the event together shared their enthusiasm for the galaxy slime and even the silent disco at the end of the night. Chance Thompson, a math and accounting junior, brought the group together to enjoy the Frenzy.

"I love coming to these things," Thompson explained.

Every semester, UPB tries to team up with different organizations to help coordinate some of the events for Finals Frenzy giving organizations a chance to gain more visibility on campus. This year, they collaborated with a handful of different organizations, including

the Esports and Gaming club who hosted Among Us in Cheyenne Suites.

However, finding collaborators for this semester's Finals Frenzy was more difficult than usual because many students were having their final exams before finals week.

"That was really difficult on us," Lay said, "We had to pull weight from within our own office and the office of Student Leadership and their staff."

Lay further explained that it was hard to find vendors and activities for the winter Finals Frenzy because the cold weather forced a majority of the activities inside. One of the limitations they face every year is what inflatables can fit inside the atrium, hence the mechanical bull making another appearance this fall.

"The fall-winter Finals Frenzy is always gonna be inside," Lay said, "I don't really like the fall because it really limits us to what we can and can't do."

UPB plans on making the spring Finals Frenzy into one that has so much more to offer students. This includes more vendors, activities, and events. Lay highly encourages students to attend the event saying it is free to all students and another way for students to relax and have a little fun before heading into finals week.

"Come out, have fun. We're here for you, we're a service provided for you by the university," Lala said, "So utilize it, milk it."



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

From left to right Lauren Reed, radiologic technologist freshman, Deja Joseph, dental hygiene freshman, and NaThanielle Hughes, musical theater senior create galaxy slime, Dec. 7.

STAGED "TORNADO" TEARS THROUGH CENTENNIAL

CECIL WITHERSPOON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Theater students teamed up with students from Gunn College to create a simulated disaster scene in Centennial Hall Friday, Nov. 17. The scene emulated the aftermath of a tornado, with theater students playing the victims as Gunn students worked to identify the severity of the victim's simulated wounds.

The exercise opened with a briefing in which respiratory care professor Randy Case told students what to expect and how to triage their patients. From there, students made their way to one of the simulation rooms in Centennial. Faculty then worked to fully immerse the students in the scene of a tornado by playing audio from the 2011 Joplin tornado, cutting the lights in the room and banging on the walls. The audio featured real people talking then panicking as the twister rolled through, followed by screams and briefly assessing who was hurt and who was okay.

The students then went into the large main entry area of Centennial, where faculty had worked to recreate the aftermath of a tornado. Couches were flipped, branches strewn about and trash was everywhere. Dotted about the scene were theater students playing victims, some screaming loudly and some lying completely still.

Upon entering the scene, Gunn students were tasked with finding which victims had been assigned to their group, determining the severity of the wounds, directing the "stable" victims to where they needed to go and tagging them for treatment accordingly.

Theater performance senior and Alpha Psi Omega member Jay Phillips said the theater department had collaborated with health sciences for similar events in the past, but only recently revitalized the partnership.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

Healthcare majors participate in a tornado simulation in Centennial Hall, Nov. 16.

"We knew that it was a disaster scenario for the nursing and the Gunn College people, and they reached out to our professors, our faculty advisor for APO, and asked us if the theater students would be willing to do it. Because I know after- before COVID they used to do it, and then they looped us back in this year. And we decided for our Alpha Psi Omega theater honor society to make it a mandatory service hour for our members to where they come and help out during one of the time slots for the disaster scenarios," Phillips said.

The dedication and commitment of the APO members made an impression on several of the health sciences students and helped add to the realism of the scene.

"I met with one of the nursing people in the elevator, and they said they were impressed with the theater people because of how they never broke. And Dr. Case was saying that in the past, the theater people, when they would participate, that they would never break

character, and he would give them a break and they would still keep acting. And I was like, "That's commitment," so it's good," Phillips said.

Radiology junior Katia Hansen echoed Phillips' sentiment, adding that it was an emotional scene when students first went past the divider separating the simulation area from the rest of the college.

"Theater majors killed it though, absolutely killed it. I was like, I was a little scared there when we went past the, what's it called, the veil whatever, but yeah, it was fun," Hansen said.

Phillips said the theater students also appreciated the Centennial faculties' commitment to setting the scene.

"Like they brought in branches, they brought in trees, they had makeup and blood, like sounds, siren effects. It felt like a theater production. They had the bodies, they had the people, they had branches and debris and couches they flipped over, because they didn't



PHOTO BY CECIL WITHERSPOON|THE WICHITAN

Students collaborate with each other to assess a patient played by Kathryn Murman sophomore theatre major, Nov. 17.

have to do any of that. But they went all-in and so we went all-in, and it was fun. And I think we had a good time, and we will do it again, because it was exciting," Phillips said.

While APO members look forward to collaborating with Gunn students again, the experience also provided an opportunity for interdepartmental teamwork within the college.

Athletic training junior Keiana Kemp said getting to work with other departments made the simulation more enjoyable than past iterations of the event.

"It being more organized and us working with every other major. Because the last two years it was only athletic training or only nursing, but we all got to work together," Kemp said, also stating, "I feel like it went better than the last two years, it was more organized and it was also fun. Everybody got to do their own part, so it was great, I liked it."

Hansen agreed that the collaborative element helped lend more practical use to the simulated disaster.

"It gives you like a little bit of an expectation, you know, as to like what you can expect in this kind of situation. And like how to work with other people too because I feel like that can be kind of difficult," Hansen said.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN
Cayla Durkee, BSN Educator and SIM Center, places a makeup wound on Jay Phillips, theatre performance senior, Nov. 16.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN
Students do an assessment on Betty Carlson Bowles, professor of nursing, Nov. 16.

Fantasy of Lights brings spirit to Wichita Falls



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

Brenda Goforth photographs Kennedy Goforth in Santa's sled, Dec. 8.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

The Marx family takes pictures with Frosty's Friends, Dec. 2. The display was adopted by Mark & Debra Suggs.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN
Fantasy of Lights will be open until Dec. 26, Dec. 2.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN
Duke Densmore takes a candy cane from Mrs. Claus, Dec. 2.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

From left to right Brad Hargis, Tawni Hargis, Adeline Hargis, and Maddox Hargis, watch the display of Toy's Christmas, Dec. 2. The display was adopted by Sue Ernst.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

Andres Revis, political science senior, collects donations from the community for Fantasy of Lights, Dec. 8.

Transgender Day of Remembrance: One student's experience

SABRINA HARRISON
REPORTER

I don't know why I felt compelled to help plan the vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance, but doing so has given me a new appreciation of life.

On Tuesday November 20, PRIDE held a candlelight vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance. Despite the chilling wind and the Festival of Lights celebration happening 1,000 feet from us, we gathered together at Bolin Fountain to mourn the murders of the 26 transgender and gender-nonconforming people in the past year. We gathered LED candles and roses in their honor and read the names of each person who had been killed.

Before helping to plan the vigil, I thought I was content in my gender. I knew that I was gender-nonconforming in some way and I often bounced between the labels of genderfluid and genderqueer. For a long time I was content with that, but something about researching and planning for Transgender Day of Remembrance had dredged up feelings and memories I had long buried.

This past year at least 47 percent of Transgender people who had a known killer were killed by someone close to them. "At least" is the key phrase in that sentence because

often the deaths of transgender and gender-nonconforming people are not reported.

I consider myself unbelievably lucky that the intolerance I have faced has been mostly mild. There have been snide comments, bewildered looks and the occasional bad joke made at my expense, but nothing has ever escalated towards violence. Despite that I've definitely been in situations that could have turned sour very quickly.

My dad is a marine veteran, originally from Arkansas, so to say that questioning my gender identity would be frowned upon would be an understatement.

A few months ago he found my TikTok account, which would not have been a problem if half of the content was not me dressing in masculine drag. To make matters worse, my bio read, "Bisexual, Genderfluid" at the time.

As soon as I saw that he found my account my blood ran cold and I waited for him to kick me out of my childhood home. My mind flew to all the possible people I could reach out to if that were to happen. The dreadful realization that I was living in a small, conservative town in the middle of nowhere became a heavy burden to hold.

For a week straight I walked on eggshells around my father, waiting for any indication

that he knew that I was gender-nonconforming. I had packed a bag and waited idly for the day that he would kick me out.

That day never came. To this day, I still don't know if my father knows my true identity and just has not said anything, or if he genuinely does not know. Somehow that's scarier than him just blatantly kicking me out.

Looking back now I realize that I am so incredibly fortunate. Other members of the transgender and gender-nonconforming community are not so lucky. Many are met with verbal, physical and sexual violence.

Ultimately, I think that is the main reason I wanted to help plan the candlelight vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance. It was a way to keep eyes on the transgender community, both in life and in death. People often disregard the transgender community and treat us as if we are nothing more than a number. They don't see us for the complex people we are.

Each member of the transgender community has a unique story, but through shared experiences, we are able to understand and empathize with each other more. These stories keep us connected and let us feel seen in a world that either admonishes our existence or ignores it completely.



PHOTO BY SAM DIFIORÉ | THE WICHITAN
Eboneigh Harris, PRIDE co-adviser,
plays the ukelele at the vigil, Nov. 20.

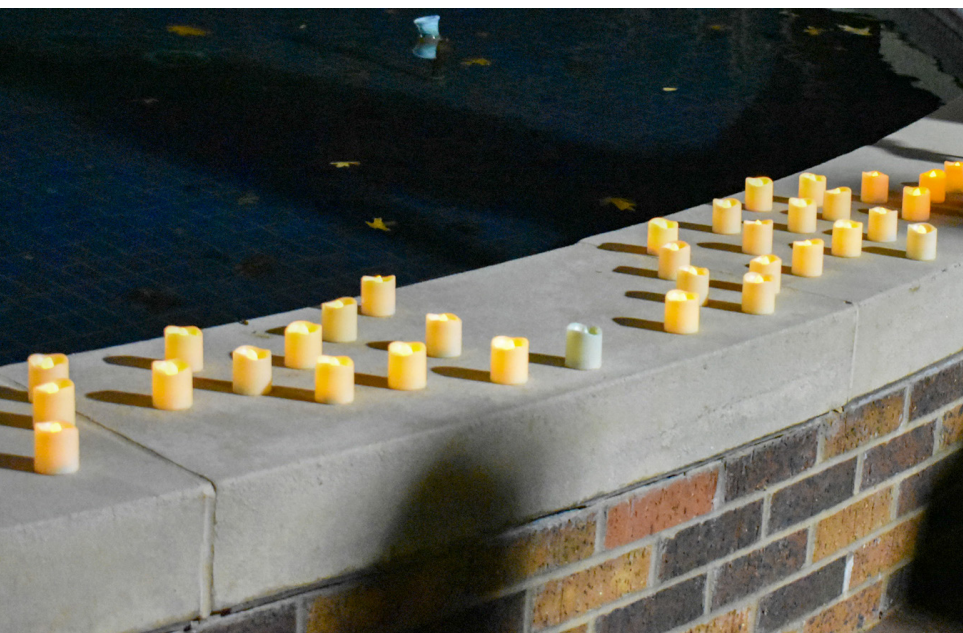


PHOTO BY SAM DIFIORÉ | THE WICHITAN

The vigil was held for the 26 transgender and gender-nonconforming people who were murdered in the past year, Nov. 20.



PHOTO BY SAM DIFIORÉ | THE WICHITAN

Students gather around the candlelight vigil at Bolin Fountain, Nov. 20.



PHOTO BY GEORGE SVOBODA | THE WICHITAN

Rich Renner gives a speech about his new plans for the upcoming football season, Dec. 11.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

Former Head Coach Bill Maskill celebrates a victory against Eastern New Mexico with his team, Sep. 23.

MSU names Renner as new head football coach

CECIL WITHERSPOON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A defining era of Mustang athletics has come to a close after over two decades. MSU's head football coach of 22 years, Bill Maskill, announced his retirement Sunday afternoon.

The MSU football program soared to new heights under Maskill, as he posted 160 career wins, the most in school history. Under Maskill's oversight, the Mustangs won five Lone Star Conference titles and posted numerous playoff appearances.

Maskill and athletic director Kyle Williams quickly agreed that longtime defensive coordinator Rich Renner was the right man to lead the Mustangs going forward. Renner joined Maskill's staff 18 years ago as defensive line coach. With just two years in the position, Renner took the step up to defensive coordinator and now, 16 years later, is taking the reins as the head of the program.

Williams said he is confident in Renner's abilities.

"We now get to embark on a new era, and a new position, a new person to lead our football program, and we think we got a good one," Williams said.

Williams was effusive in his praise of Renner in the new coach's introductory press conference, stressing his confidence in Renner both on and off the field.

"Rich is a man of integrity, he's a man of character and he's a great football coach," Williams said.

Renner said he appreciates the guidance Maskill gave him. After almost two decades under the former head coach's tutelage, Renner said he feels better prepared for the task ahead.

"And again, I thank Coach Maskill for all these years, alright, of inspiration. But also too, just of the growth and learning of preparing me for this situation. You know, Coach Maskill has been awesome for 17 years," Renner said.

Renner also thanked a string of coaches he worked under, players he coached and his

family.

"I want to thank all the players that I had the ability to coach over the years. I think it's very important to understand without those guys then I wouldn't be standing here today. Great football players, it was great to get the texts and phone calls yesterday and today that I really appreciate. But those guys are the ones that really matter. Those are the guys that, well the reason I got into this profession is to give back to them," Renner said.

Renner added that he appreciates being able to stay so long in one place, particularly in an industry where changing locations every few years is standard practice.

"For 17 years, I've been able to call 'home' in one place. So that's been something that's been very important to me and my family, especially in this coaching profession," Renner said.

Renner's decades of work represent the culmination of a longtime dream for the new Mustang head man.

Renner said he was confident from a young age that he wanted to coach.

"I knew I wanted to be a coach at a young age. I can tell you growing up that there's a lot of coaches in my life that was very influential," Renner said, adding, "Obviously I wanted to give back to those young men that was given to me. Obviously when I say young men I mean young men that I would eventually coach. Obviously I was very fortunate to have that."

Now, Renner is tasked with carrying on the winning legacy left behind by Maskill.

Renner said he wants to build for the future while remembering the positive impacts Maskill left on the program.

"It's obviously an honor to lead this team into the future, but I also want to be a builder, okay. A team that is disciplined, hard-working, mentally tough and competitive. Those are the same things that we talked about under Coach Maskill, but obviously I want to continue to build off of that and that foundation that Coach Maskill and our staff have developed that over the 22 years that he was here," Renner said.

Record season comes to an end

ABBY TURNER
REPORTER

The MSU men's soccer team lost against the Colorado State-Pueblo Thunderwolves on Friday, Dec. 1, during the third round of the NCAA Division II playoffs, marking the first loss for the Mustangs.

Going into the game, the Mustangs were ranked No. 2 nationally and had yet to lose a game, keeping their undefeated streak of 20-0-1. The Thunderwolves were ranked No. 16, but the Mustangs focused on how they would play instead of how the other team would.

Nathan Toledo, management senior, gave insight into how the team prepped for the game a week prior.

"We prepared similarly to how we prepare for every game, in that we focused more on how we were going to play. We usually tried to not focus too much on the opponent and really focus on us and our style of play," Toledo said.

Although the stakes for this game were high, the Mustangs had a home-field advantage and went in knowing what they had to do in order to win.

"Going into the game, just as in games before, the team was locked in. Everybody understood their assignments, and honestly, we were confident in our team's ability," Toledo said.

The match was neck and neck for the entirety of the first half. Going back and forth between both ends of the field, but neither team could score a goal. The first half had many fouls by both teams, and the Thunderwolves received a yellow card.

Going into the second half, there was nervous tension in the stands, but the Mustangs knew the team they were playing

was going to be defensive.

"We knew the team we were playing would be very organized and defensive, so it wasn't a surprise that we were 0-0. We came out into the second half with the same planning mind, defend the set pieces and throw-ins and go score a goal," Toledo said.

Unfortunately for the Mustangs, the Thunderwolves scored the game's first goal, after a yellow card was awarded to Mustang Liam Pritchard, exercise physiology junior, and the Thunderwolves were given a free kick.

This goal, scored by the Thunderwolves' Ricardo Schroeder, assisted by Caio Oliveira and Shjon Andrews with under 13 minutes left in the game, provided a shift in both teams. The Thunderwolves were ecstatic, but the Mustangs were more determined to converge on a play.

Even though the Mustangs were determined to score and continued to fight hard until the very end, they could not convert and lost the game 1-0 to the Thunderwolves.

In the end, the Mustangs were held to only three shots on goal, which has not been done since 2016.

Although this loss ended the historic 18-game winning streak the Mustangs had, the team built a bond that will carry over into the next season.

"Something particularly special about this team was how unified we were off the field. I've been a part of many talented teams over the years, and what made this team stand out was how close we all were. There weren't a bunch of small cliques and groups and arguments. We were a bunch of guys who all found a way to get along and chase a common goal. We know the season didn't end up the way we wanted



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

Liam Pritchard (22) attempts to steal the ball from Dylan Zavatini (2), Dec. 1.

it, but there were so many successes along the way that I hope us older guys were able to set the standard for all the younger guys here at MSU," Toledo said.

Toledo believes that the younger group of guys on the team are ready to keep building their success off of what the seniors are leaving behind.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

Liam Pritchard (22) sets up a play against Ryan Nun (99), Dec. 1.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GARCIA | THE WICHITAN

The MSU soccer team mourns the loss of the third round of NCAA Division II Championships against Colorado State-Pueblo, Dec. 1.

Five Nights at Freddy's finds mixed reviews

SABRINA HARRISON
REPORTER

Five Nights at Freddy's was released on Oct. 31, 2023, by Blumhouse Productions.

The movie takes place in the early 2000s with Josh Hutcherson taking the lead role as Mike, who is motivated by the need to keep his family safe. When working at an abandoned pizzeria is the only thing Mike can do to keep custody of his younger sister, he tries his hand at being a night security guard.

Despite being long anticipated, the movie holds mixed reviews. Some reviews from fans admonished the movie for pandering too much to outside audiences while people who had never seen the movie felt like they were out of the loop. Fans who uplifted the movie for bringing back their childhood nostalgia clashed with fans who felt the movie pandered to children.

The movie did not adhere to the story of the games, but any long time fan could understand why Blumhouse decided to detach from the game in that way. To put it simply, the original lore is a twisting labyrinth of storyline and trying to fit the movie into the same universe as the game would have been as easy as fitting an elephant into a sewing needle.

In a way, the movie was more of a collage of all the games put together than a strict adaptation. It took characters and events from the different games and used that as a backdrop for the storyline. That's what made it



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

From left to right: Foxy, Chica, Freddy Fazbear, and Bonnie, from the movie "Five Nights at Freddy's", Oct. 27.

such a good movie.

The movie was created in a way that many different people could enjoy it. The fanbase of "Five Nights at Freddy's" is so diverse and the way the movie was made really plays to that. There's mystery for the theorists to enjoy, easter eggs for all types of fans and a great story over all. Though there was not a lot of violence, I think that is for the better because it makes the movie more accessible for fans of

all ages.

Even if you are not a fan of the franchise, you can still enjoy the movie as long as you know why you are watching it. If you are watching it because you want to see a really violent and frightening horror movie, you are going to be highly disappointed. That is not what this movie is. This movie is a fun, mildly scary movie about an almost decade old video



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURE

Elizabeth Lail, played by Vanessa Monroe, talks to Mike Schmidt, played by Josh Hutcherson. Oct. 27.

game franchise. If you allow yourself to enjoy it for what it is, you will have an amazing time.



Olive The Other Reindeer: A hidden gem

GABBI ENRIQUEZ
REPORTER

The movie "Olive the Other Reindeer" is a heartwarming animated film that tells the story of Olive, a small dog played by the wonderful Drew Barrymore, who believes she is destined to be one of Santa's reindeer. This charming Christmas tale, based on the book by J. Otto Seibold and Vivian Walsh, offers a unique twist on a classic holiday story.

One of the strengths of "Olive the Other Reindeer" lies in its animation. The visuals are vibrant and colorful, capturing the spirit of Christmas with its festive palette. The character designs are also imaginative and endearing, using odd shapes to create a unique look that sets the movie apart from others. Olive herself is particularly unique, her wide-eyed innocence makes her instantly lovable.

The movie excels in its ability to convey important messages about friendship and believing in oneself. As Olive embarks on her journey to save Christmas alongside her friend

Martini, an eccentric penguin, she learns valuable lessons about perseverance and embracing one's uniqueness. These themes resonate with viewers of all ages and make for a truly heartwarming viewing experience.

However, despite its many strengths, there are some aspects of Olive the Other Reindeer that could be improved. The pacing occasionally feels rushed, with certain plot points glossed over too quickly, preventing one from fully immersing into the story and connecting with the characters on a deeper level. Additionally, while the film's humor is mostly effective, there are moments where it falls flat or relies too heavily on slapstick comedy. A more balanced approach to humor would have enhanced the overall comedic experience.

All in all, "Olive the Other Reindeer" is a delightful Christmas film that offers a fresh take on the holiday genre. Its unique animation and meaningful messages make it an enjoyable watch for the whole family.

Although it has some minor flaws in terms of pacing and humor, these do not overshadow its overall charm and appeal. "Olive the

Other Reindeer" is a must-watch during the Christmas season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX HOME

"Olive the Other Reindeer" released on Dec. 17, 1999.

“ANTI” The Wichitan’s Song of the Week: “ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU”

JOEY ARTHUR
REPORTER

Welcome to the first ever Anti Song of the Week. This week’s edition is “All I Want For Christmas is You” by American singer-songwriter and record producer Mariah Carey. Released October 29, 1994 as the lead single for her fourth studio album and first holiday album, “Merry Christmas,” “All I Want For Christmas is You” is a song about love during the winter holidays. After her third studio album, “Music Box” and her meteoric rise to fame, Mariah Carey wanted to create a holiday album as she has never done that in the past before. Mariah Carey, in collaboration with Columbia Records, created her holiday album and released “All I Want For Christmas is You” as the lead single. The song became a huge sensation but I do not understand why. The song is extremely basic and has the worst musical composition of Mariah Carey’s entire career.

Born in Huntington, New York, Mariah Angela Carey is a widely popular American singer-songwriter and record producer. She started her rise to fame with the release of her eponymous debut album. After dominating in the music industry, Mariah Carey shifted a little into music production with the recording company that she signed with. Mariah Carey is an extremely decorated artist, winning over 50 different awards including a couple GRAMMYS, Billboard Music Awards and American Music Awards. She also holds the record for highest certified female artist in the United States and 10th worldwide.

As stated in previous editions of the Song of the Week, lyricism is an important aspect of any song, but Mariah Carey didn’t understand that when writing “All I Want For Christmas is You.” In the song, she utilizes cheesy, outdated lyrics and faint pathos to portray love. My least favorite lyric in the entire song is:

“Oh-oh, all the lights are shining so brightly everywhere (so brightly, baby) And the sound of children's laughter fills the air (oh, oh, yeah) And everyone is singing (oh, yeah) I hear those sleigh bells ringing Santa, won't you bring me the one I really need? (Yeah, oh) Won't you please bring my baby to me?”

Captivating her audience with phenomenal singing and profound lyrics is a recurring theme in Mariah Carey’s discography, but in “All I Want For Christmas is You” she does not do that. In “All I Want For Christmas is You,” she sings about how she wants her loved one to stay with her for Christmas and that is all she wants. She created a song about dependence. The song is not a great listen with a mediocre message.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDALL MICHELSON/
HEWITT SILVA-LIVE NATION

Mariah Carey performs at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, Nov. 18.

The Wichitan’s Song of the Week: “CAN’T CATCH ME NOW”

JOEY ARTHUR
REPORTER

Welcome back to the final edition of the Fall semester’s song of the week. This week’s song is “Can’t Catch Me Now” by American singer-songwriter and actress Olivia Rodrigo. Released November 3, 2023, as the second single for the soundtrack to the Francis Lawrence movie, “The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes,” “Can’t Catch Me Now” is a song about Lucy Gray Baird, the deuteragonist of the movie. Shortly after the release of her second studio album, Olivia Rodrigo was approached by Francis Lawrence and Lionsgate Films to write a song for the movie. They wanted Rodrigo to write a song that was reflective of who Lucy Gray Baird was and that is what Rodrigo did. The song is a reflection of the effect of Coriolanus Snow on Lucy Gray Baird.

Born in Murrieta, California, Olivia Isabel Rodrigo is a widely popular American singer-songwriter and actress. She started her rise to fame as a child actress in commercials until she moved to star in hit Disney shows including the hit show, “Bizaardvark.” Rodrigo left acting after the third season of the Disney Plus show “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series” to focus on her music career. She is also a highly decorated artist winning awards



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

Rachel Zegler stars as Lucy Gray Baird in The Hunger Games prequel “The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes.”

like the Recording Academy’s GRAMMYS, the Billboard Music Awards, an American Music Award and so many other awards.

As stated in previous editions of the Song



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA RODRIGO

Lionsgate Films approached Olivia Rodrigo to write for the film after she released her second studio album.

of the Week, lyricism is an important aspect of any song and Olivia Rodrigo understood that when writing “Can’t Catch Me Now.” In the song, she utilizes film references and pathos to narrate the story of Lucy Gray Baird in the

movie accurately. My favorite lyric in the entire song is:

*“But I’m in the trees, I’m in the breeze.
My footsteps on the ground
You’ll see my face in every place.
But you can’t catch me now.
Through wading grass, the months will pass.
You’ll feel it all around
I’m here, I’m there, I’m everywhere.
But you can’t catch me now.
No, you can’t catch me now.”*

Expressing her feelings through music is a recurring theme in Olivia Rodrigo’s discography but in “Can’t Catch Me Now” she expresses the feelings of Lucy Gray Baird. In “Can’t Catch Me Now,” she sings about how Lucy Gray Baird escaped Coriolanus Snow and her life at Panam. She created a song about vengeance, retribution, pain and freedom. The song is a great listen with a powerful message.

