



MSU RELATED COVID-19 CASES

Faculty and Staff
(Nov. 2 - Nov. 8)

2

Students
(Nov. 2 - Nov. 8)

14

Weekly Total
(Nov. 2 - Nov. 8)

16

Overall Total
(Since Aug. 1)

362

Source: Murray State University's COVID-19 Dashboard
Daniella Tebib/The News



Chalice Keith/The News

The Faculty Senate approved a resolution to support the relocation of the confederate monument on Nov. 10.

Faculty Senate finishes semester with controversial discussions

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During the Faculty Senate's last meeting of the semester on Tuesday, Nov. 10, members discussed Provost Tim Todd's change to scheduling, the Confederate monument and the role of the Instructional Assessment System.

Role of IAS

The Faculty Senate drafted resolution FSR-19-20-7 to discuss the role of IAS in instructional evaluations.

"IAS student evaluation instruments will continue to be administered, but will not be the sole basis for evaluating faculty's teaching excellence," according to resolution FSR-19-20-7. "Each department will submit to the Office of Academic Affairs and their faculty in writing a teaching evaluation plan that details how IAS teaching evaluations and other evaluative tools will be used in tenure, promotion and annual performance reviews. Faculty Development Center will offer evidenced-based training to faculty and administration on the interpretation and use of the IAS teaching evaluations involved in faculty evaluation while continuing their core mission of offering training that enhances pedagogy and teaching design."

Todd rejected this resolution. He explained the rejection is not because of the idea behind the resolution, but the Office of Academic Affairs needs more time to look into the logistics of the proposition before it can be approved.

"We all think the idea there and the resolution is very good," Todd said. "What we're trying to do here in Academic Affairs is to go down a different path in relation to bias and in relation to some of the survey instruments. We've been working with the University of Washington for decades and there are options, so we wanted a little time to come back and look at those."

Andy Black, senator and associate professor of English, said the rejection of the resolution and lack of communication with women and minority faculty on campus are harmful to the message of inclusion and diversity the University claims to promote.

"I've been in touch with the Women's Caucus about this [resolution], who have pushed for this [resolution], and they said they haven't heard anything from [the Office of Academic Affairs] and they're very concerned about gender bias in these evaluations," Black said. "I wonder, since this is a rejection as it just appears on the screen, this has hurt people and this has affected people. I'd like you [Todd] to know that and since it wasn't communicated very well."

Black encouraged Todd to speak to underrepresented groups on campus who are concerned with the role IAS plays in their career at the University.

"Frankly, I'm bothered the Women's Caucus wasn't contacted at all," Black said. "I emailed them today to see if anyone has been in touch with them, and that hasn't happened."

Ken Sutrick, senator and associate professor in quantitative methods, was a member of the committee working with the research necessary for this resolution. Sutrick said it is difficult to find research and data that indicates gender and race discrimination in the role of IAS.

"We looked at this issue before," Sutrick said. "The problem is it's really hard to measure... We looked at papers, they're all over the board from you can find bias, there's no bias. You can find anything under the sun. The problem has always been how do you measure it and we didn't find a way to measure it. But, if you can measure it, then I don't think anybody would disagree that it needs to be adjusted."

Black combatted Sutrick's claims and said there is an abundance of evidence proving the existence of gender and racial biases.

"It is not hard to find," Black said. "I really think honestly this could be found through any Google search."

In response to Black's comments, Sutrick said the committee completed several "Google searches" and research in which no evidence of discrimination was found. Black questioned how many members of the committee responsible for conducting the research were women and/or people of color.

Sutrick was unable to answer the question.

"I don't remember the exact composition," Sutrick said. "I know we had internationals."

David Pizzo, senator and professor of history, participated in the discussion in the chat feature of the Zoom meeting.

Pizzo said members on the committee claimed evidence regarding gender and racial biases was presented, but it was ignored.

"As Dr. Pizzo says, a lot of this evidence was presented and ignored," Black said. "That's why this rejection has been very hard for women and people of color on this campus who frankly aren't very well-represented on this Senate either."

Later in the meeting, Aaron Irvin, associate professor of history, cited examples of evidence supporting the claims of gender and racial bias.

"From 2000 to 2017, the Chronicle of Higher Education and Inside Higher Ed have published over 50 stories on student ratings, of those over 65 percent of them have been negative," Irvin said. "One of these [articles] is actually just from a week ago, talking about gender bias in TAs being five times greater against females TAs than male TAs... Now this was found very quickly with a simple Google search."

Irvin also said he was concerned about how the issues of gender and racial bias could open the University up to litigation.

"This is an obvious area where the University can come under attack and lawsuits are possible," Todd said. "The Faculty Senate resolution, likewise, doesn't say to do away with the IAS system, but to simply mitigate it... Why leave the University vulnerable?"

Why not take action as the Faculty Senate, as suggested in order to mitigate these and protect the University from litigation?" Todd reassured Irvin and the Faculty Senate that action is being taken to work on approving this resolution or reworking this resolution in the future.

"Part of the reason to refuse or reject that resolution there was language in that resolution that put a tremendous amount of pressure on 30+ department chairs," Todd said. "That was really the point of the resolution that the deans had a lot of issues with. Frankly, I did as well. The rejection of the resolution has nothing to do with the bias or that type of argument."

In the meantime, Todd offered to remove the "rejection" status

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Gov. Andy Beshear discussed the budget for fiscal year 2021 in a media briefing on Nov. 4.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Balance the current fiscal year 2021 budget
- No further budget cuts to state agencies or Road Fund
- Finishing FY 2021 with more than \$460 million in the "Rainy Day" Fund, the largest in the state's history

TEAM
KENTUCKY

Photos courtesy of Gov. Andy Beshear's Facebook Livestream

Beshear gives update on potential budget cut

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During a media briefing on Nov. 4, Gov. Andy Beshear said the commonwealth is on track to balance the fiscal year 2021 budget without any cuts.

"Today's news means that critical areas, such as education, health care and public safety will not suffer from midyear cuts but will instead be fully supported at their budgeted amounts," Beshear said.

This announcement came after President Bob Jackson sent an email on Sept. 9 warning faculty of a possible eight percent budget cut, which would have resulted in a \$3.5 million cut from the current fiscal year 2020-21.

While Jackson said he was pleased to hear the University will not experience a funding cut through June 30, 2021, he said the University is still facing fiscal challenges. "We still have many fiscal challenges due to the pandemic,"

Jackson said. "We have experienced a few million dollars in additional expenses and reductions or eliminations in revenue since July 1. We remain hopeful that a federal stimulus package will be passed to assist Murray State and other colleges and universities in the coming days."

Beshear said the commonwealth was able to refrain from budget cuts because they had better revenues than anticipated. "We believe in large part that's because of dollars flowing

through our economy because of the state and federal COVID relief efforts," Beshear said.

Beshear also said in addition to balancing the budget, Kentucky is also likely to finish this fiscal year with over \$460 million in the state's Budget Reserve Trust Fund—the rainy day fund—which would be the highest total ever.

The News will continue to provide updates regarding the budget as more information is presented.

FACULTY

From Page 1

of the resolution and place it under "pending" as the Office of Academic Affairs looks for vendors and considers the logistics of the resolution with some more time.

"This is clearly a difficult topic," said David Roach, Faculty Senate president and professor of mathematics. "It was hard for it not to be approved. I think we need to give Todd a little more time. I mean, we did slap it on his desk in the middle of a pandemic."

Confederate Monument Relocation Resolution

Faculty Senate has been working with Staff Congress on a special joint resolution, SJR-20-21-4, in support of the removal and relocation of the Robert E. Lee statue on the courthouse square.

The resolution is in alignment with the University's position and is an opportunity for faculty to vocalize their opinion on whether the statue should remain where it stands or be relocated.

The resolution received ample support from the departments across campus, but debate still ensued among the senators.

Some senators presented the concerns with the resolution of faculty members from their specific departments.

Most faculty members who opposed the resolution said it because they feel like it is not the Faculty Senate's place to speak on the matter, especially since the University has already addressed it. Some faculty members from the mathematics department, marketing and management department and engineering department echoed this sentiment.

Amanda Davis, senator and professor of animal and equine science, said after discussing it with her department, she was concerned with faculty's comfortability to step forward and express their opinions.

"I have faculty members in my department that did not feel comfortable expressing their opinions because it is such a hot topic," Davis said. "It is an issue people are incredibly passionate about, rightfully so. My concern, though, is that there are some faculty

that are hesitant to come out and speak their opinions on this because it is such a hot button and they fear backlash."

Davis said two faculty members in her department chose to voice their opinions to her rather than have it in writing because of their fear of receiving backlash.

To encourage faculty members to voice their opinions and protect their privacy, names of faculty and their specific votes were not publicized. Instead, it was the responsibility of each senator to represent their departments according to the opinions of their faculty.

In response to concerns of some faculty members about the redundancy of the resolution, Heidi Ortega, vice president of Faculty Senate and associate professor of theatre, spoke on behalf of the executive committee of Faculty Senate who has handled the resolution.

"I think the executive committee feels you can't ever be redundant when it comes to social injustices, racism, etc. and so the more support that can be thrown towards that, the better," Ortega said. "While there definitely is not an agreement 100 percent, because that never happens, overwhelmingly it was in the positive side of our departments to go forward with this."

Michael Bordieri, senator and professor of psychology, emphasized the importance of protecting faculty's voices, but he also discussed the importance of uplifting voices of faculty and students who are underrepresented on campus.

"If we have concerns about our ability to recruit and retain faculty of color, students of color, staff of color, we need to be concerned about this issue," Bordieri said. "I think, yes, it will not please everyone, but doing the right thing and taking a stand for social justice is not necessarily about pleasing everyone. It's about taking a principled stand, and I think there's an opportunity to do that today."

Following the thorough discussion about the resolution among the senators, 27 senators voted in favor of the resolution, while five voted in opposition of the resolution.

The resolution will be reviewed and voted on by Staff Congress on Nov. 18. If it is approved, the resolution will be sent to Judge Executive Kenny Imes

Faculty Concerns with Spring Scheduling

Following Irvin's email to faculty about his concerns with the scheduling changes implemented by Todd, Irvin requested further clarification and communication from Todd during the meeting.

"I had some questions for you considering the issues that have existed with scheduling for spring semester up to this point," Irvin said. "With the schedule being posted incomplete and with multiple errors and before the normal procedure of chairs and department administration had a chance to review many of the offerings. We then had the calendar changed, so that scheduling began sooner, giving faculty advisers less time to work with students, less time to reassure students, less time to work through problems, basically less time to do that vital job to the University of enrollment and recruitment."

Irvin said faculty advisers form the frontline when it comes to recruitment, enrollment and retention, so when time is taken away from faculty to properly do their jobs, it affects the University as a whole.

Todd said the main reason for the scheduling change was to ensure the University is doing everything it can to have the best possible spring semester and enroll students. While the decision was not unanimous, Todd said it was not a unilateral decision and input from the deans was taken into consideration.

Irvin said since students cannot self-register and must wait for academic advisers to get enrolled in classes for the spring semester, taking time away from faculty to work with students hinders the future success of the spring semester.

"How does restricting our ability to do that by lessening our timescale, how does that give us, as you put it, the best possible spring semester," Irvin said.

Todd said the scheduling change gives students more time to register, which was the reasoning behind the decision.

Irvin then questioned Todd's decision to not consult faculty prior to making the decision.

"Why were the faculty not contacted until well after the fact," Irvin said. "Why were they not informed that this change was taking place, and why was

our input not sought when we were directly affected by this and we're, in fact, the very instrument of the University that had to put this plan into action?"

Todd made the decision through the Dean's Council. When consulting with the Dean's Council, two deans approved the change, two deans opposed the change and the others did not provide any insight.

"Math isn't my greatest field, but I believe that means you only had one-third of the Dean's Council in agreement," Irvin said.

Todd disagreed with the way Irvin was presenting the information. While only one-third of the Dean's Council agreed, one-third of the Council also disagreed, and the three other deans did not provide their input. However, Irvin said he felt agreement from two out of seven deans was not enough to make this decision.

Irvin also acknowledged the Office of Academic Affairs decision to extend the grading period for faculty, and thanked Todd for this decision.

Todd said he appreciates the constructive feedback and believes the Office of Academic Affairs could have done a better job with communication in a more effective and timely manner.

Non-tenure Promotion Faculty Senate wrote FSR-10-25-5 to encourage the University to add a policy for faculty promotions outside of tenure.

"This [resolution] is allowing the Provost to work with the Senate on how we would promote instructors," Roach said. "This is not an agreement that we will promote instructors, but it's to come up with a game plan, come up with a strategy, a structure that we could submit to the Board of Regents as a handbook revision to install promotion for the non-tenure track faculty on campus."

Todd approved this resolution and plans to discuss it with President Bob Jackson before the University closes for the semester.

Roach said the resolution is not binding to a specific policy.

"Let's get in there and find a policy we can discuss before the Board of Regents," Roach said.

Stay updated on the decisions of the Faculty Senate and the University with *The News*.



Photos courtesy of Murray State University

President of Students of Veterans of America Lacey Pritchard, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Don Robertson and President Bob Jackson celebrated Veterans Day.

University celebrates Veterans Day virtually

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On Veterans Day, Murray State took to a virtual setting to honor those who have served and protected the United States of America. The virtual Veterans Day celebration started with a speech from Murray State alumna and veteran Col. Lucretia McClenney. “Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served,” McClenney said. “For one day, we stand together in honor and pause to reflect on our veterans. America’s best men and women who have served and sacrificed by wearing the uniform of our nation.” McClenney’s speech touched on the inception of Veterans Day,

how it has changed over time, and how its meaning of remembering those who have served the country has never changed. She wrapped up her speech by encouraging everyone no matter where they may be to pay their respects to veterans. “So wherever you may be on this Veterans Day, remember to give thanks to the veterans at Murray State University and your respective communities,” McClenney said. “Together our collective efforts will continue to make Murray State University military friendly and keep veterans in focus. I am proud to extend to America’s veterans a heartfelt appreciation and thanks for your service in the United States armed forces.” After McClenney’s speech, President Bob Jackson and Don

Robertson, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, thanked veterans for their service and recognized the importance of Veterans Day. “Murray State and this country owe a deep debt to our veterans and our active duty military,” Jackson said. “So today is the day we get to recognize these important individuals. We appreciate the service and sacrifice of many.” Jackson also mentioned how US News has included Murray State on a list of the best colleges for veterans, ranking Murray State 14th of 142, and the University showed how by paying respects to all veterans and by honoring one of the its very own. Lacey Pritchard, the president of Student Veterans of

America, was presented a plaque from the University with a quote from former President John F. Kennedy, thanking her and fellow veterans for their service. Robertson furthered the thank you from University personnel and expressed his happiness to have so many veterans enrolled at Murray State. “We currently have over 170 veterans, 200 military-connected personnel and we’re very proud of the fact that we have 29 veterans scheduled to graduate this year,” Robertson said. If you would like to view McClenney’s speech, share a moment of silence in honor of veterans with others or view Murray State thanking its student veterans, visit TheNews.org.

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Gage Johnson/The News

Junior guard Tevin Brown drives to the basket against Morehead State.

Murray State basketball finalizes schedule

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With the season two weeks away, Murray State men's and women's basketball have finalized their schedules.

Men's basketball

The Racers schedule doesn't look exactly as expected as the season approaches the Nov. 25 start date, but that's to be expected with the pandemic affecting traveling and scheduling as a whole.

Head Coach Matt McMahon admitted it wasn't easy getting the schedule finalized in the season-opening press conference on Oct. 30, but knows that everyone in the NCAA is dealing with that issue at the moment.

"It's a disastrous time here in college basketball," McMahon said. "My good friend Coach Konkel down at Louisiana Tech and one of the top coaches in the game, they released their schedule yesterday. They were the 20th school out of 357 to complete their schedule and I believe we're 26 days now from opening night."

But a week later, the 2020-21 slate is set in stone, with a few changes to the expected schedule because of the season being pushed back and traveling restrictions.

That being said, non-conference games against Auburn University and the University of Memphis that were originally scheduled for this season will not be played.

Other non-conference games were lost, but Murray State was able to retain games against Middle Tennessee State University and Southern Illinois University. Those games will both be played on the road on Dec. 2 and Dec. 11 respectively.

Other non-conference games include the Racers' season



Gage Johnson/The News

Junior forward Alexis Burpo drives baseline looking to finish at the rim.

opener against Brescia University on Nov. 25 followed by a second straight home game against Kentucky Wesleyan College on Nov. 28. The final non-conference game has Murray State taking on Prairie A&M University on Dec. 15 at the CFSB Center.

The Racers will take a break from non-conference to take on Austin Peay University in a flex-game on Dec. 8 at the CFSB Center, with the true OVC portion of the schedule beginning on Dec. 21 against the Governors.

After their first bout with Austin Peay at home on Dec. 8, the Racers' next home conference game will be on Jan. 2 against Morehead State University. The Racers will play a total of 20 OVC games, as opposed to their typical 18-game slate, with the season coming to a close on the road against Tennessee Tech University on Feb. 27.

Women's basketball

While Murray State women's basketball might not have the typical exhibition games to start the season, they will get right to work with five non-conference games starting in the final week of November.

The Racers will kick off the season with a bang, taking on the No. 10 ranked University of Kentucky on Nov. 25.

Murray State will follow that up with its first home game of the season, taking on the University of Evansville on Dec. 1 at the CFSB Center.

The Racers' matchup with the Aces is followed by three non-conference games against Indiana State University, Mississippi Valley State University and the University of North Alabama.

Murray State will open up OVC play against Austin Peay

on Dec. 19 at the CFSB Center, with its first conference road game on Wednesday, Dec. 30 at Belmont University.

In accordance with the men's schedule, Murray State women's basketball will also play a 20-game OVC schedule, with the season ending on the road against the Golden Eagles of Tennessee Tech on Feb. 27.

College basketball is nearing its return and Head Coach Rechelle Turner and company are ready to get to work.

"We're really excited about the 2020-21 season," Turner said. "We have a great mix of veteran players and newcomers that we feel like we've filled the voids we have had in the past. Our 2020 recruiting class was outstanding. We had high hopes for them and since they've arrived on campus they haven't disappointed."



Redshirt freshman guard Jentri Worley tries out the new sensory performance device to enhance Murray State athletes sensorimotor skills.

Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Alumnus makes donation to Racer Athletics

New sensory performance device to help improve sensorimotor skills

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Murray State alumnus Chris Andrews has donated a sensory performance device that Racer athletes can use to enhance their sensorimotor skills. This will improve the athletes' performance in their respective sports.

This device, called the Senaptec Swift Touch, uses a modern light board which runs off of proprietary software that is designed to enhance the fundamental skills of the human body.

Andrews, a 2007 Murray State graduate, is the president of Bernell Corporation. With his donation, Murray State became the first collegiate or profession-

al athletic program to have this kind of technology.

"We are very excited to add the Senaptec Swift Touch to our training regimen here at Murray State," said Eric Frederick, assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine. "We spend a lot of time and effort in helping our student athletes be the best and healthiest person they can be. Training for sensory coordination is going to make us better. This program is also going to be a fun thing that our student athletes can do, see their improvement and compare results across all of our teams."

The Senaptec Swift Touch allows student athletes to improve their hand-eye coordination, center/peripheral vision coor-

dination, split vision and visual memory and reaction time in a fun and efficient way. Training drills are customizable for each athlete's specific needs with automatic adjustments to keep the program challenging as the athlete improves each skill.

"It has been a personal mission of mine to raise awareness about the benefits a sports vision training program could have on the student athletes at Murray State," Andrews said. "The Senaptec program creates a unique opportunity to gain a competitive edge. This donation will provide the Racers access to elite sports vision equipment, which they can immediately begin utilizing to enhance their visual skills and elevate their athletic performance."

"I want to thank Chris Andrews, Dr. Klosterman and the team at Senaptec for their generous donations of resources and time, in an effort to provide Murray State Athletics with an elite vision training program," said Kevin Saal, director of Athletics. "From the outset, Chris has been focused on giving back to Murray State Athletics and enhancing the student athlete experience, for which we are grateful."

The Senaptec Swift Touch will allow the student athletes, especially in baseball, basketball, football, rifle, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball, to improve their game by engaging in the sensory system and enhancing their fundamental skills.

Rifle splits doubleheader, beats JSU but falls to UK

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Murray State Rifle split in its double header on Saturday, Nov. 7, beating Jacksonville State 4690-4630, but falling to the University of Kentucky 4735-4621.

Head Coach Alan Lollar had good things to say about his team despite picking up the first loss of the season.

"I am really proud of everyone," Lollar said. "We had some really good performances today and showed some really good team balance. We are beginning to show why I get so excited about this team."

The Racers led with their best foot forward in the first match against Jacksonville State. Murray State posted season-highs in all three scoring categories, going 2334 in smallbore and 2356 in air rifle for an aggregate of 4690. The smallbore and aggregate scores against Jacksonville State were the best the Racers showed since Nov. 3, 2018.

In a common occurrence this season, sophomore Mattias Kiru led the Racers with a season-high 1181 aggregate on a 586 in smallbore and a 595 in air rifle. Freshman Allison Henry placed second on a line of



Freshman Kylie Delaney lines up her shot at the Pat Spurgin Rifle Range.

Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

586 in smallbore, 589 in air rifle and an 1175 aggregate. Freshman Kylie Delaney came in fourth with a season high aggregate score of 1167, following her best smallbore score of the season (584) and an air rifle score of 583.

Coming in sixth was junior Anna Scheer, who scored an 1164 aggregate after going 578 in smallbore and 586 in air rifle. Senior Dana

Buesseler followed Scheer, shooting 574 in smallbore and 586 in air rifle to combine for an 1160 aggregate.

The match against UK did not go as the Racers wanted. Still, freshman Abby Zinsmeyer was able to salvage a fourth place spot on the rankings, shooting an 1160 aggregate, her highest of the year. Freshman Emily Endecott followed Zinsmeyer at the fifth spot, posting

a 574 in smallbore and a 580 in air rifle for an 1154 aggregate.

Freshman Scott Patterson came in eighth overall with an 1153 aggregate, and freshman Noelle Meals rounded out the top ten with an 1135.

The Racers will get a week to prepare to go to Lexington, Kentucky, to face off against Morehead State on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 8 a.m.

Gabe's Take

Will Biden Fix America?

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On Saturday, Nov. 7, presses called the presidential election, naming Joe Biden the president elect. All around the nation, Americans celebrated this astounding victory with a new hope for America instilled in their hearts. Despite the celebrations ringing across the nation, people are still apprehensive about Biden: will he get a hold of the pandemic where current President Donald Trump seemingly failed, and will he cool tensions between the different social minorities?

First, let's talk about the COVID-19 pandemic, a hot topic among the political realm. Many agree that Trump failed to keep America safe from the virus. According to NPR, when being interviewed by veteran journalist Bob Woodward, Trump admitted that he downplayed the coronavirus. "I wanted to play it down," he said. "I still like playing it down because I don't want to cause a panic." This was a mistake on Trump's part, as there have now been 10.4 million cases in the US alone, and 241,000 deaths. This could have been avoided if he had called for a complete lockdown and mask mandates.

Now then, we need to take a look at Joe Biden. Biden, not even being in office yet, has talked about implementing a nation-wide mask mandate. While this is only a little bit of what can actually be done, it is still more than what Trump has done within the last few months. Biden showed in his victory speech on Nov. 8 that he truly cares about the American people, beginning



Cade Utterback/The News

his speech with "my fellow Americans," making us seem like people instead of a number. This makes his supporters feel safe and happy, finally having a president address the citizens rather than make the entire speech about himself, which Trump has been doing for four grueling years. Biden cares about us, and he treats us like people instead of numbers on a chalkboard.

Next let's talk about discrimination. Trump has been known to say some risque things, like calling the coronavirus the "China Virus." In fact, one of the most damning pieces of evidence showing Trump's racist behaviors comes when the riots were happening. On Twitter he said "... These THUGS are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and

I won't let that happen. Just spoke to Governor Tim Waltz and told him that the military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!" This not only calls for police brutality, but it's a complete opposite from what he posted a month prior. When anti-mask protesters were demanding an end to the mask mandate in Michigan, Trump posted a tweet, saying "These are very good people, but they are angry. They want their lives back again safely!" This is a complete opposite when talking about a majority of white protesters vs. talking about a majority of black protesters. Not only that, but the amount of racism targeted at Asian Americans during the

pandemic has gone up astoundingly, as his supporters believe it's all their fault and that makes harassing them okay. But, despite all of this, social issues have been a problem in America for quite some time. Unless Biden really works hard toward the progression of this country, those statistics will not go down, and they will continue to get worse.

In conclusion, most people believe that Biden will be able to get a hold of this pandemic and heal America in the ways that Trump failed. But, while he may be able to heal the wounds of the sick, he will most likely be unable to heal the wounds of the minorities who have experienced discrimination throughout Trump's four-year reign.

CHEERS....

to an extended winter break!!!



JEERS....

to tests before final exams!

"CONSIDERATION"



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Photo courtesy of Kathryn Foster

Alpha Gamma Delta seniors perform their traditional dance number at last year's Rock-A-Thon. The philanthropy event will be held virtually this year on Friday, Nov. 13, because of COVID-19.

Rock-A-Thon event to be held virtually

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Alpha Gamma Delta's Rock-A-Thon is a traditional Murray State philanthropy event, but like many other traditions it has seen a break from the norm because of COVID-19.

The Rock-A-Thon is an annual event that started during the 1970s where Greek organizations face off in a lip sync dance competition to raise money for charity.

Junior social work major and vice president of philanthropy

Kathryn Foster has helped adjust the Rock-A-Thon in order to fit with COVID-19 precautions.

"With COVID-19 we have adapted our event this year to only our look-alike division, which consists of small groups reenacting scenes from popular movies and TV shows," Foster said.

Proceeds from this year's Rock-A-Thon will go to foundations that are fighting world hunger, like Meals on Wheels and Feeding America. Last year they were able to raise around \$25,000.

"The money we raise will help organizations and communities not

only locally, but nationwide as well," Foster said.

Since summer, Foster's sorority has been planning for Rock-A-Thon and despite the unusual format she is still excited for it.

In a normal year, the Rock-A-Thon features teams of up to 20 students from each organization who perform a lip sync and dance routine for an audience in Lovett Auditorium.

"Teams usually spend months in advance learning and practicing their routine with the help of members of Alpha Gamma Delta, who act as coaches," Foster said. "This year the

event is being held entirely virtual and with very small groups wearing masks to ensure that we are taking as many precautions as possible."

Foster is happy to see her and her sorority's work pay off and she thinks that the virtual format will be a success.

The Rock-A-Thon will be held on Friday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. and tickets will be available on alphagammadelta.crowdfunder.com for \$5.

"There are so many individuals who have worked hard to make this event possible and I think everyone will be happy to see it all pay off," Foster said.

International Education Week

Find the Zoom link here: <https://www.murraystate.edu/academics/StudyAbroad/iew.aspx>

Thursday, Nov. 12

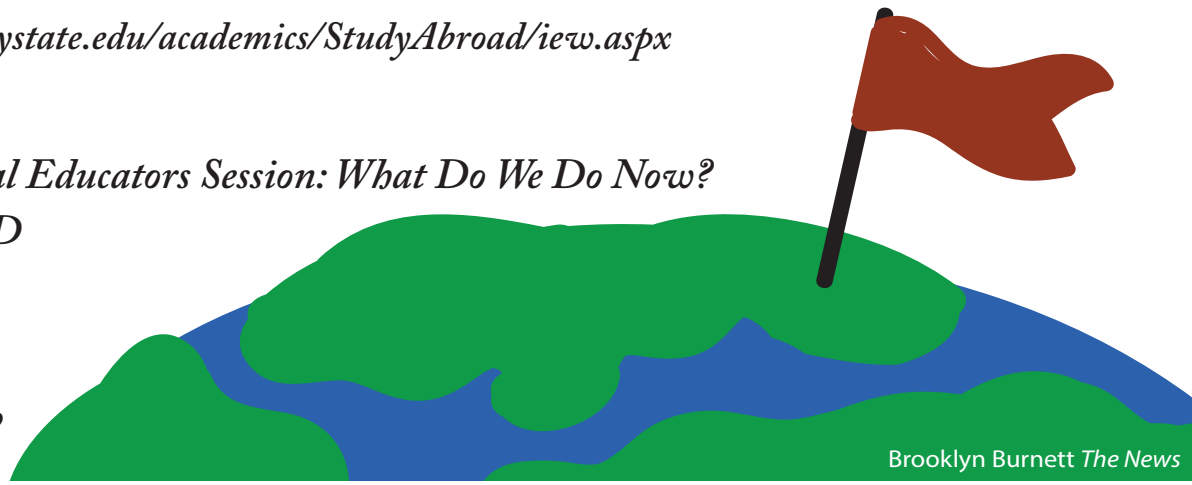
Noon NAFSA: Association of International Educators Session: What Do We Do Now?

4 p.m. Study Abroad Students Talk COVID

4 p.m. Study Abroad Scholarship Workshop

Friday, Nov. 13

4 p.m. Study Abroad Scholarship Workshop



Brooklyn Burnett The News

Annual mock trial tournament takes on different look

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The Murray State mock trial members object COVID-19's attempt to ruin the 30th annual tournament. Despite not being able to travel like in previous years, the mock trial tournament took place Saturday, Nov. 7, and Sunday, Nov. 8, in Faculty Hall 208.

Senior political science major Joshua Sanders has been doing mock trial for a year and is the current president and captain.

Sanders, who has been doing mock trial for a year, said mock trial is both a class and a club, so participation is open to anyone interested in being trained in trial matters. Sanders said members are given one case per year to work on and prepare before arguing both sides of the cases at tournaments.

"There are witnesses and attorneys, and you get to choose who you want to call to the stand, what evidence you want to use and how you go about questioning your witnesses," Sanders said. "The case problem is something like 180 pages long of affidavits, rules, stipulations, evidence and other things."

Sanders said the case problem this year is a civil case of either a negligence per se or Battery case. In the case, the son-in-law of a winery owner died because of pesticide ingestion.

Focusing on perfecting the preparation of this case, members of mock trial had been preparing for the tournament all semester.



Cady Stribling/The News

Despite normally traveling for the mock trial tournament, Murray State students still took on roles in the trial as they competed against other universities.

Sanders said they competed against schools from a variety of states from Alabama to Oregon to Mississippi to Missouri.

"It went really well," Sanders said. "Everyone has been working hard at their roles and were great. There were roughly 24 teams in total at the last competition. I think any tournament that offers competition from different schools, it gives as an opportunity to see how other people have interpreted the case problem and just different views on mock trial."

Because of COVID-19, this year's mock trial tournament had to take place over Zoom, which came with many challenges. Sanders said when mock trial had to move to an online tournament via Zoom, it created

many problems with movement since they approach witnesses as they portray themselves.

"Mock trial is a lot like actual court, so things such as document sharing, having everything accessible for the judge, jury or opposing bench to see is something to really adapt to," Sanders said.

Despite the tournament being over Zoom, Sanders said now more than ever mock trial, and campus events in general, is rewarding and helpful. Because of the isolation COVID-19 can cause, Sanders highly recommends everyone to get involved in some way and to know there are still competitions and programs going on despite the circumstances.

For people looking to go into law, Sanders said mock trial is important since it lets law schools and firms know that members do know their way around a trial.

Not only do two practicing attorneys help to coach the team, Sanders said Paul Foote, the coach of mock trial and associate professor of political science has worked really hard and has been a great job teaching the class and club.

Foote has been the coach for six years and said mock trial is a great team-building exercise that increases students' level of public speaking skills. Foote said the class and club trains students to speak and think as trial attorneys, so it is ideal for pre-law students who would be interested in trial practice.

Murray State alumni signs record deal

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Photo courtesy of Nick Erickson

Many Cohen band members are alumni of Murray State. Pictured left to right: Kenton Smith, Trevor Williams, Nick Erickson, Zachary Orr, Gage Girten

Murray State alumni have taken their nu metalcore band, Cohen, to the next level after signing with Modern Empire record label two weeks ago.

With Modern Empire, band member Trevor Williams and former Murray State students Nick Erickson, Zachary Orr, Gage Girten and Kenton Smith are set to release a new EP “Suffer” on Friday, Nov 20.

The band, who has had five members for about a year and a half, began much smaller in 2015. Primary vocalist Nick Erickson began attending Murray State in 2014, majoring in journalism and minoring in English. Erickson said Murray State taught life skills that would help him later with his music career.

“It forced me to get some more independence and a sense of freedom,” Erickson said. “It was the first time I had more time to focus on studies, and being here I had more time to do things I was passionate about.”

Erickson was also in Racer Band and worked as features editor for The News. Erickson met his best friend and bandmate Williams when they were 16 and 15, respectively. They hit it off, talking about music and knew they wanted to play in a band.

“We tried to put in effort and make it a serious thing and find musicians that wanted to play the same kind of stuff as us, and that’s not easy to do when there’s not a whole lot of metal bands in western Kentucky,” Erickson said.

Williams has dreamed of being a rock star for as long as he can remember, with a particular interest in metal.

“I was born around music, every genre you can think of from R&B, blues, outlaw country to brutal death

metal,” Williams said. “But I’ve been head banging since the car seat, so I’ve just been into it since the beginning of time I guess.”

During Erickson’s sophomore year at Murray State, they began looking around campus for bandmates. After a few different members coming in and out and many trials of discovering their band sound, Erickson and Williams finally found the sound they were looking for.

The following September, the band went to a studio in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to record their first official song as Cohen. This song would be a turning point in the band’s career.

“I’ll never forget when Nick said ‘the moment we release this song, it’s bigger than us now,’” Williams said. “It’s not just Nick, me, whoever—it’s Cohen. It’s not one person. It’s Cohen. We realized we needed to do this for real and push.”

About two months after the first song was released, the band recorded a second single. At that point they were planning their first show in Puryear, Tennessee, at a nightclub. The show was Cohen’s first

time performing in front of a live audience, headlining their first performance.

In what Williams called a “surreal” experience, Cohen performed to an audience of 150-200 people.

“You’re not going to be perfect the first time you step on stage, but I felt like we were pretty close, it just felt good.” Williams said.

Williams said they always make the joke “From basement to Bridgestone” as in Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee, since they began Williams’ grandma’s basement and hope to reach their goal of playing stadium shows.

Cohen has performed in Murray’s Terrapin Station, as well as frequently in Louisville, Kentucky, St. Louis, Missouri, Chicago, Illinois and Nashville, Tennessee.

While the band is not the typical soundtrack for the south, they remain determined to succeed. Signing with Modern Empire, rebranded from Stay Sick Records, is another huge step to making their dreams a reality.

“Stranger things have happened,” Erickson said. “Bands that sound like

us have gotten to that point and we want to achieve that as well. Really, I just want people to listen to our music and get something out of it, resonate with it.”

The growing success of Cohen didn’t happen overnight. The band works tirelessly to create work they are proud of and while it hasn’t always been easy, Erickson said the key is his bandmates.

“Surround yourself with people who have a similar goal as you because I definitely don’t think I would have been able to do it without Trevor’s help or anybody else in my band,” Erickson said. “But if you have like minded individuals with the same goal as you, it’s going to be a lot easier to obtain it.”

The band hopes to begin touring once COVID-19 is over. For now the band alternates between two places to practice, a furniture store in Murray and a member’s home in Owensboro.

To learn more about the band, visit facebook.com/CohenNoise, twitter.com/CohenNoise or instagram.com/Cohen_Noise.

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