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Tutoring program works through staff shortages

Ava Chuppe
 Contributing Writer
 achuppe@murraystate.edu

The Lowry Tutoring Center has seen shortages in workers and students attending and facilitating sessions, for the past few months. Tutoring Coordinator Sarah Williams said this is the smallest number of tutors the program has ever seen. "We had to cut a few of our smaller-interest subjects for this semester just because we didn't have a tutor that could cover them," Williams said. "Where we are really short is in math, especially for in-person tutoring." Students can still go to the Ross Math Lab in Faculty Hall Room 109 for math tutoring sessions, including some upper-level courses. A schedule for these sessions can be found at murraystate.edu/mathematics under the "Ross Mathematical Studies and Career Center" tab. Williams said the shortages are part of a wider trend. "In my department, as well as some other departments across campus, we've seen not just a shortage of tutors, but a lack of student interest in attending some campus programs and events altogether," Williams said. Based on the conversations she has had with students, Williams said the lack of attendance can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

see Tutoring, page 3



Campus Protests: Aftermath

Emma Fisher/The News

Students organized their own protest to spread messages about bodily autonomy and denouncing the comparison of abortion to genocide.

Protests launch free speech zone, visitor policy discussions

Dionte Berry
 News Editor
 dberry11@murraystate.edu

After campus was visited by an anti-abortion protest group that equated abortion to genocide, students organized counter-protests to spread their own messages and denounce the groups' use of graphic content. A group from the Center of Bioethical Reform set up a large poster display in the free speech zone on Oct. 18 and 19 with their anti-abortion message. The posters compared abortion to genocide with the exploitation of graphic images of aborted fetuses, victims of the Holocaust and Nazi symbolism as well as imagery from the Civil Rights Movement.

In response to their display, students organized a counter-protest on both days. Students made posters to spread messages of bodily autonomy as well as disapproval of the groups' usage of graphic imagery. Although it may seem as though the Center of Bioethical Reform should not be able to set up such a display, they were able to in the free speech zone where they are protected by the First Amendment. The Center has set up the same display and other graphic portrayals to promote their anti-abortion beliefs at other college campuses. All colleges have a zone designated for free speech. The aftermath of the two-day period was marked by the desire for change in how groups

like the Center of Bioethical reform are able to set up on campus. Sophomore theater major Mack Slack played a big role in the protests. Slack had a megaphone and led many of the other protestors in chants about wanting change. Slack came upon the protests on the morning of Oct. 18 and after seeing the graphic imagery the group was using, she decided to join the beginning efforts of the counter-protest. "I happened to be walking out of class when I saw the offensive images plastered right outside across from the Applied Science Building," Slack said. "After having multiple conversations with one of the women who were with the Bioethical Reform Group, I decided to join a couple of my friends who were already there protesting."

see Protests, page 2

Makerspace opens in Waterfield Library

Jill Smith
 Staff Writer
 jsmith194@murraystate.edu

Students, faculty and staff now have the opportunity to explore their creative sides with technology that will promote new interests. Makerspace is located in the lower level of Waterfield Library and is designed to inspire creativity in those who visit the space. Former Dean of Libraries Ashley Ireland said Makerspace is a place to explore curiosity. "The space is open to the MSU community as a celebration of pure exploration and curiosity, and to see what happens when we put technologies and tools in front of people of all skill levels, and with interests

rooted in any discipline, to create and collaborate," Ireland said. Makerspace coordinator Jeremy Gosser said Makerspace is an area to provide resources to students while also being a space for faculty and staff. "Students can start exploring by first teaching themselves and second by exploring some ideas geared towards working for themselves instead of someone else," Gosser said. "It's really an experimental space first and entrepreneurial space second." Gosser said Makerspace provides students with resources they might not have access to in their departments.

see Makerspace, page 3

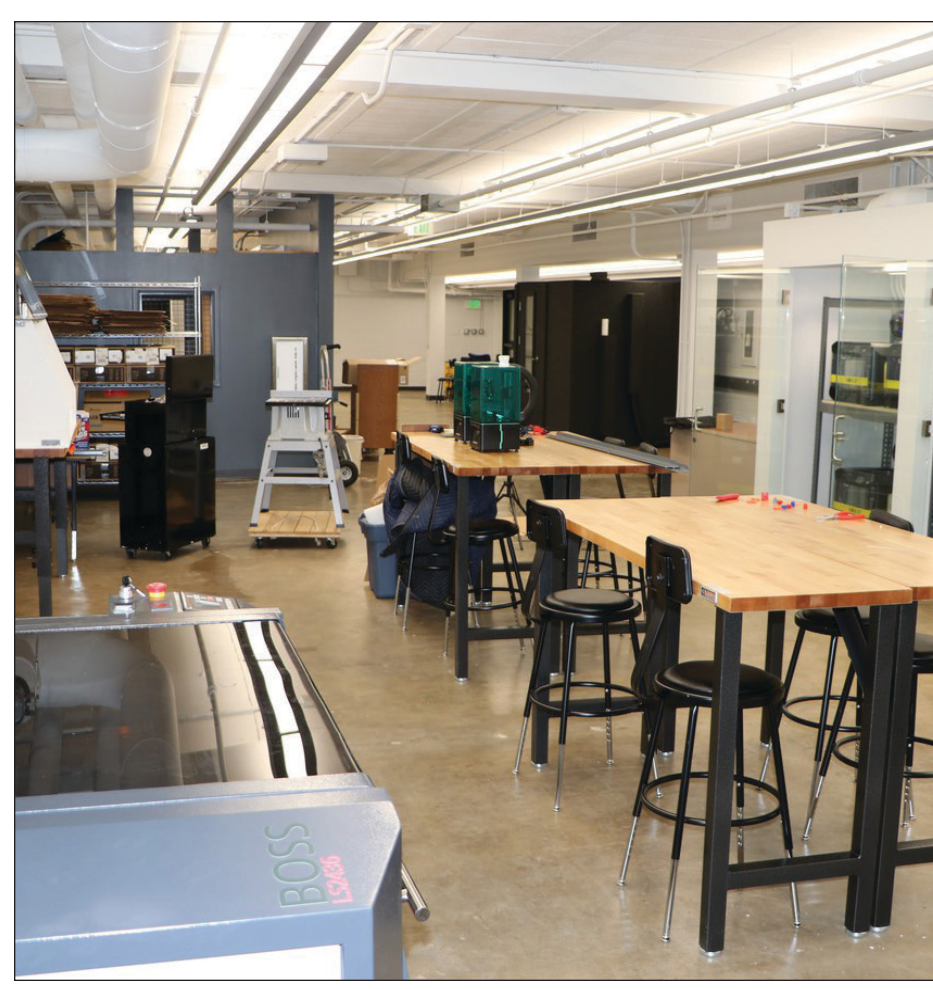


Photo courtesy of University Libraries
 The Makerspace is located in the lower level of the Waterfield Library in room 107.

MURRAY STATE RELATED COVID-19 CASES			
Students (Oct. 18 - Oct. 24)	Faculty and Staff (Oct. 18 - Oct. 24)	Weekly Total (Oct. 18 - Oct. 24)	Overall Total (Since Aug. 16)
8	1	9	196

Homecoming 2021: 99 years and counting



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini and Mary Huffman /The News

Protests, from page 1

At the time, Slack said she didn't know how something like this could happen, and felt as though she had a responsibility to use her voice to speak out against the imagery that was being spread.

"The images were gruesome, fear-mongering, and highly offensive to the BIPOC and Jewish community," Slack said. "I honestly felt like I was just doing what I had to do. Sometimes it's hard for others to speak up when the world we live in makes them feel as if they don't have a voice. I will absolutely and happily be that voice for myself and for others when they need it."

Slack chanted back and forth between protestors over a megaphone. The chant was broken into two sections, with Slack asking protestors, "What do we want?" and "When do we want it?" The protestors responded with "Choice," and "Always."

Fellow protestor, public relations major Scottlynn Ballard, also saw the protest as she was leaving class.

"I got involved with the counter-protests after leaving for my environmental science lecture. I had been able to talk to some of the organizers before the counter-protesters arrived," Ballard said. "Dr. Carthell gave us a message of protesting with a purpose, and I really wanted to look deeper and figure out just what would become our centralizing message for this."

Ballard did not want this issue to only last for the two days protestors were occupying the space outside of

the Curris Center, but she wanted to use this event to create long-term change.

In creating change Ballard and Slack, along with other protestors, took the issue to the Student Government Association meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 20. The protestors presented an open letter outlining possible solutions to give students precaution in a group with graphic imagery.

In the open letter protestors made three points that could help ease the negative effects of something like this happening in the future. The points are as follows:

- Create an alert system via email or text for whenever the free speech zone is occupied by a protest group and description of the content be displayed.
- Set up more visual warnings for whenever there is graphic content on display in the free speech zone.
- If there is graphic content on display, position on-site counsellors to help onlookers who may be overwhelmed with the content.

Ballard was happy to see how receptive those at SGA were to the concerns of the protestors.

"I am extremely grateful to SGA President Ian Puckett for addressing the incident as one of the first things on the docket," Ballard said. "He opened it to discussion to the rest of the meeting, and being able to see that many people circled around the same ideas of changes and improvements that



Emma Fisher/The News
Mack Slack played an important role in leading protestors in chant.

the University could do showed me that our central goal was a success."

Along with the protestors, SGA President Ian Puckett denounced the graphic imagery used by the Center of Bioethical Reform.

"I believe the word I used on Wednesday was sickening. That's all I can say about it," Puckett said. "I understand what they're trying to say, but I think the way that they did it was horrid by comparing abortion to genocide, it's not accurate, and the argument is flawed."

Puckett said he saw the groups as just trying to shock and create attention. During the SGA meeting, Puckett offered more light on how these groups are able to occupy spaces on college campuses.

"These groups come to campus, they follow all proper protocols and procedures with the Student Affairs Office to come here," Puckett

said. "They do everything legally and of course and this comes from my law professor, Dr. Alkhatib, legality does not always equal morality."

If the campus was to deny a group like this entry then that could possibly result in a lawsuit against the university.

Since there is not the possibility of denying them entry, the idea of moving the free speech zone was considered.

"We could move it elsewhere on campus, but anywhere we move it, it's gonna have to be in a high traffic zone," Puckett said. "No matter what you do, you're going to have to have a free speech circle or free speech zone that sees a high number of students coming and their message can be heard."

Puckett said another important factor is not giving protestors the reaction they want.

"The gasoline to their car is the anger of the student body, so if you just walk by and I know they may be offensive, I get that it hurts, but if you simply ignore them, they won't feel like you're winning, but you're winning, because they're going to make themselves look like fools," Puckett said.

Puckett is thankful for the students who did organize the counter-protests and made their voices and presented solutions to SGA.

"I feel their [the protestors] concerns, and we're looking into their ideas," Puckett said. We'll see what we can do, what we can't do, and we'll be honest about it the entire way through it."

Tutoring, from page 1

“Many students got used to being fully online, and now that we’re back in person, I’ve had some tell me that it’s a struggle to want to participate in things they don’t absolutely have to,” Williams said. “Others are enjoying being back in-person and want to be out making up lost time with friends instead of spending extra time in academic settings.”

Other students may not use the Tutoring Center because it does not offer upper-level course tutoring. Junior professional writing major Hannah DuBois said she turns to classmates when she needs assistance but would recommend the Tutoring Center. “I’ve used the tutoring center before and it was helpful,” DuBois said. The Tutoring Center has received numerous requests to offer sessions for Organic Chemistry and Ethics, which they have recently added. Though the Tutoring Center primarily covers University Studies courses, Williams said she hopes to expand the Tutoring Center’s offerings.

“If a student is struggling in a course, but we don’t offer tutoring for it, I encourage them to reach out to me and I’ll see if we can either find a tutor for it or see if another office on campus covers it,” Williams said.

Williams added that the RacerWorks program has also had difficulty maintaining student interest. RacerWorks provides students with free workshops conducted by faculty and staff on a number of topics.

Ann Matheny, coordinator of RacerWorks, said her program will continue to offer sessions until the last week of class.

“These free workshops are a great benefit to students,” Matheny said.

Any student with at least a sophomore status and who has completed each subject they are interested in tutoring with a grade of A or B can apply to work at the Tutoring Center on Handshake. Though tutoring is free for students, tutor positions are paid. Preference is given to students who can cover multiple courses or disciplines, though anyone meeting the requirements is encouraged to apply.

This semester, the Tutoring Center is offering in-person tutoring



Dionte Berry/The News

The Lowry Center houses most campus tutoring services.

for some biology, chemistry and math courses on Mondays and Thursdays from 11-4 p.m. in the Lowry Center. They also cover these courses and others online through Penji, a free tutoring app.

To learn more about in-person and virtual tutoring sessions

through Lowry Tutoring Center and RacerWorks, visit murraystate.edu/provost, then click on the “Center for Academic Success” tab.

Anyone with questions about on-campus tutoring options can contact Sarah Williams at swilliams85@murraystate.edu.

Makerspace, from page 1

“It provides a resource that certain departments may not have the demand or the funds to facilitate, so it gives their students access and their teachers access to more current technology,” Gosser said.

This space offers students, faculty and staff a variety of current technology, including 3D printers, computers with 3D modeling, Adobe Cloud Suite and programs to create ads, a sound booth, a latex printer and more.

Dean of Libraries Cris Ferguson said this was an initiative that came out of the library.

“The plan to convert this to a Makerspace was a library initiative that didn’t require a vote,” Ferguson said. “The renovation required University approval and the expenditure of the funds did require approval, but it didn’t require a vote from the Board of Regents.”

Ferguson said the funding for this project comes from student fees.

“We have been using library technology funds, so students pay a technology fee and a web fee,” Ferguson said. “We have been using those funds to pay for these materials, and it’s been paid for over a couple of fiscal years.”

Ferguson said the space used to be a printing and copy center, but since it consolidated with printing services, the library had to decide what to do with the empty space.

“We talked about what to do with it and the idea of building a Makerspace and having this kind of space really came to the top about a service that many of our peer institutions have and that we wanted to provide to our students,” Ferguson said.

Ireland said Makerspaces are common in public libraries and have grown in popularity over the last decade.

“If we think about academic libraries as a space where one builds on existing knowledge and information, a makerspace provides the space and guidance to create entirely new skills and techniques to solve problems,” Ireland said.

Gosser said this space is open to all majors and can show students how to express various concepts from the Humanities side.

“There is all kinds of technology in here to sort of explore,” Gosser said. “Expression, narrative or other concepts that are tied into any area in the humanities—I see no reason why someone from the English department couldn’t find a way to make use of this room.”

Junior engineering and physics major Hayden Smeed said this will be a great space for non-engineering students.

“I think this space will be a great creative outlet for non-engineering students to explore the field as long as it’s promoted well and students are given at least the bare minimum instruction to ensure they use the machines and software correctly,” Smeed said. “Sometimes the use of modeling software and printing equipment can be tricky, even for the engineering students.”

Ferguson said she foresees students with different majors coming to make use of the space.

“I can see theatre students coming in here and doing props and design work, costuming students,” Ferguson said. “I could see folks from history coming in and looking to be like, ‘I’m interested in medieval weaponry, what can I do in terms of 3D stuff or mapping out battlefields.’”

Junior journalism student Dustin Wilcox said having a sound booth in a more accessible space will give students the opportunity to learn something new.

“Audio is an increasingly relevant form of media,” Wilcox said. “Even if not every Murray State student ends up in that sector, simply having the option to learn something new in an accessible environment will undoubtedly pay dividends in their future careers.”

Gosser said while it is open to faculty and staff, the space is currently not set-up for classroom instruction.

“I think the number of seats we have in here wouldn’t facilitate [class lectures],” Gosser said. “The space isn’t set-up for professors to come in and have a class in here.”

Makerspace is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but Gosser said these hours are subject to change.

“We have to expand hours by what students we have to fill those hours and by what the demand is of the students coming in here,” Gosser said. “I think that it will ramp up for the rest of the semester, and then next semester we’ll see what it’s really looking like.”

Makerspace is currently only open to individuals who are affiliated with the University, and all will be required to show a Murray State ID before using any of the technology.



Rebecca Mertins Chodini/The News

The Makerspace which celebrated a grand opening on Oct. 22 features an array of 3D printers.

Our View

Professors should reflect on their teaching based on student performance

As midterms have passed professors have given out grades, good and bad, which should be reflective of the students' work, but that is not always the case.

Grades and outcomes also stand as a reflection of the professor's way of teaching. If the whole class did badly on a test, then perhaps it's not just the students who are at fault.

The majority of the *The News'* Editorial Board has been in a situation in which most of the class did not do well on an exam and then their class got the, "Did you guys study?" or "I have never had a class do this badly."

Departmental academic policies must address these issues because it is not fair for students to receive a poor grade because their professors did a poor job of teaching the content.

A retesting policy should be in place. If a whole class does poorly, then everyone should have the chance to redo the test. Professors shouldn't just toss the test back at their students, but instead they should take time to talk to students and review what was not clear to them on the original test.

Students will be able to address their questions and concerns and the professors will know how to teach their content in a more understandable way. Students and the professor would benefit under this structure.

Also, since midterm grades have to be submitted on myGate, the University could take a closer look at

grades and which classes they account for. If a bunch of students did not do well on a test for the same class with the same professor, then there could be a certain University branch to reach out to them about why the grades are what they are.

This could be accompanied by a midterm student evaluation instead of just having one at the end of the semester. This way, professors can receive feedback on their courses as they progress and can adapt to each group of students.

After the midterm student

evaluation there would also be the routine end of the semester evaluation; the two could be compared.

In order to ensure students complete the evaluations, professors can offer incentives; for example, extra credit or participation points or to drop the lowest quiz grade if the entire class completes the evaluation.

When it comes to meeting every student's needs, it can be hard to address them all in a 100-level class with over 50 students.

But that should be less of a challenge in smaller,

upper-level classes.

In smaller class settings, professors should be willing to adjust their teaching style for what students think would be the best and most receptive type of teaching.

Students are seen as sponges that soak up knowledge, but not everyone soaks up knowledge the same. Students are individuals with different needs.

We at *The News* believe there's a need for equal accountability of students and professors when it comes to evaluation.



Cade Utterback/*The News*

LATE SEMESTER FEAR



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The Murray State News

Editorial Board



Dionte Berry
News Editor
dberry11@murraystate.edu

Pam Goodwin
Chief Copy Editor
pgoodwin1@murraystate.edu

Joey Reynolds
Chief Videographer
jreynolds38@murraystate.edu

Emery Wainscott
Lifestyle Editor
ewainscott@murraystate.edu

Kate Manley
Ad Sales Manager
kmanley2@murraystate.edu

Jakob Milani
Sports Editor
jmilani@murraystate.edu

Sam Stewart
Photo Editor
sstewart26@murraystate.edu

Dr. Carol Terracina-Hartman
Faculty Adviser
cterracinahartman@murraystate.edu

Contact Us
2609 University Station
Murray State University
Murray, Kentucky 42071-3301
TheNews.org

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The News strives to be the University community's source for information. Our goal is to present that information in a fair and unbiased manner and provide a free and open forum for expression and debate.

The News is an independent weekly student-run newspaper published at Murray State. The content does not reflect the opinions of the Murray State journalism and mass communication department.



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Freshman outside hitter Alexa Harris recorded 29 kills in the Racers' two games against Tennessee State on Thursday, Oct. 21, and Friday, Oct. 22.

Volleyball takes back-to-back home games

Rachel Essner
Staff Writer
ressner1@murraystate.edu

The Murray State volleyball team swept Tennessee State University in a two-game series to kick off Murray State's Homecoming Weekend, increasing their record to 12-9 overall and 6-5 in the OVC.

Game One

The Racers jumped to a 8-2 lead in the first set with service aces from senior libero Becca Fernandez and freshman outside hitter Alexa Harris, kills from sophomore opposite hitter Jayla Holcombe and senior middle blocker Kolby McClelland and a block from McClelland. The Racers extended their lead to 13-6 with a 5-1 run. The teams went back-and-forth until two back-to-back kills from Harris and McClelland gave the Racers set point at 24-16. With a service error from the Tigers, the Racers took the set 25-17.

The Racers scored five straight points in the second set to take the early lead at 6-2 with three kills from freshman outside hitter Brooke Lynn Watts and one from McClelland. Murray State extended their lead to 18-10 with a 5-2 run. The Tigers attempted to fight back with a 6-2 run, but still trailed the Racers 22-17. With two kills from Watts and an assisted block from Watts and sophomore middle blocker Taylor Beasley, the Racers closed out the set 25-18.

The third set was a closer fight between the teams with the Tigers taking the lead at 12-8, however, a 9-1 run from the Racers gave them the 17-13 advantage. The Tigers were never able to recover as the Racers used four straight points consisting of two kills and a service ace from freshman setter Bailey DeMier and a block from Watts and Beasley to finish the set 25-20.

Watts led the Racers' offense with 18 kills, followed by McClelland with 12 kills and Holcombe with nine.

McClelland totaled three solo blocks while Watts and Beasley had three assisted blocks each.

Fernandez led the defensive side with 19 digs while DeMier finished with 12 digs and sophomore defensive specialist Dahlia Miller collected nine digs. DeMier also contributed 40 assists.

Game Two

The Racers opened game two with a 7-1 run in the first set to lead 8-4, but the Tigers regained the lead at 13-10 with an 8-2 run. But a 9-1 run put the Racers back on top at 20-17, where three kills from Watts and one from Holcombe gave the Racers the 25-22 win.

The Racers took the lead in the beginning of the second set at 11-8; however, the teams traded points back-and-forth until they tied at 24. A kill from both Watts and Holcombe and a Tennessee State error closed out the set for the Racers at 27-25.

The third set was full of runs for the Racers, starting with a 5-0 run

to take the lead at 5-4, followed by a 6-1 run to further advance their lead to 11-8. The Racers then used a 12-3 run, ending with kills from Harris, McClelland and Watts to ultimately finish the set 25-15, and take the 3-0 sweep.

Watts finished at the top of the Racers' offense with 13 kills with Harris just behind her at 11 kills. McClelland counted two solo blocks and two assisted blocks while Watts contributed three assisted blocks, Beasley finished with two assisted blocks and DeMier added one assisted block. Harris counted four service aces while McClelland, Fernandez and DeMier each finished with two and Miller with one service ace.

Fernandez collected 18 digs to lead the defense while Miller added 10 digs, Harris counted nine and DeMier and Watts each contributed eight digs. DeMier tallied 35 assists.

The Racers will travel to Nashville, Tennessee, to take on Belmont University in a two-game series on Friday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 30, at 2 p.m.

Jakob Milani/TheNews

OVC Standings

1. UT Martin

2. SIUE

3. Belmont

4. Murray State

5. Tennessee Tech

6. Morehead State

7. SEMO

8. Eastern Illinois



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Murray State secured the fourth seed in the OVC Tournament with their win over Austin Peay on Sunday, Oct. 24.

Soccer wins last game, secures four seed

Rachel Essner
Staff Writer
ressner1@murraystate.edu

The Murray State soccer team finished their regular season with a win against Austin Peay State University at Cutchin Field during Murray State's Homecoming Weekend on Sunday, Oct. 24.

The teams finished out regulation time scoreless, sending them into overtime. With a pass from junior midfielder Lauren Payne, sophomore forward Chloe Barnt-house took the Governors' goalkeeper one-on-one to put the ball in the back of the net. She scored the golden goal in the fifth minute of overtime, taking the 1-0 win.

The Racers outshot the Governors 14-2 while Austin Peay saved nine of the Racers' 11 shots-

on-goal. In addition, the Racers shot 12 corner kicks compared to two kicks from the Governors.

Following the match, Murray State honored the players in their last season on the team, including senior goalkeeper Cera Prather, forward Marley Hall, forward Abby Jones, midfielder Symone Cooper, graduate forward Rebecca Kubin, defender Izzy Heckman and redshirt junior defender Katie Bickers.

Because of the win, the fourth-seeded Racers increased their record to 9-7-1 and will host Tennessee Tech University, the fifth seed, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, the eighth seed. The match will take place on Friday, Oct. 29, at 2 p.m. with the winner taking on the Racers on Sunday, Oct. 31, at 1 p.m.

Football loses big in homecoming game

Jakob Milani
Sports Editor

jmilani@murraystate.edu

The Murray State football team took its biggest loss of the season on Saturday, Oct. 23, when the Racers lost to the Austin Peay Governors by a score of 47-6.

The Racers' annual homecoming game was spoiled thanks to the loss as the Racers allowed five rushing touchdowns and two passing touchdowns from the Governors.

Head Coach Dean Hood said the team was out-coached throughout the entire game, leading to the Racers' demise. "It was just a whooping on every phase of the game," Hood said. "We got outplayed in every phase, we got out-coached in every phase."

Austin Peay started the game with the ball, but the Racers' defense held on and forced a punt. The Racers' offense weren't able to get a first down though and had to punt back to the Governors.

Graduate running back Ahmaad Tanner struck first with a 37-yard rushing touchdown for the Governors following the punt. The Governors failed to score on the two-point conversion and led 6-0 with 6:04 left in the first quarter.

The Governors held the Racers to another punt on their next drive and struck again with a 44-yard rushing touchdown with junior running back Brian Snead. The Governors missed the extra point attempt, making it a 12-0 lead over the Racers.

After being held to fourth down again, the Racers attempted a fake punt attempt that the Governors quickly intercepted. The two

teams traded punts and turnovers over the next five drives as neither defense was willing to give in.

The Governors ended the turnover streak with a 35-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Sheldon Layman to graduate wide receiver Baniko Harley. This extended the Governors' lead to 19 with 6:51 left in the first half.

The game marked Layman's first start of the season, something that junior cornerback Quinaz Turner said didn't change the way the Racers played.

"He did everything that the starting quarterback would do," Turner said. "He made it happen with his legs, he threw the ball pretty well. They had good backs so they ran the ball pretty well too."

After trading punts over the next two drives, the Racers were able to get the ball moving. After a 33-yard rush from freshman quarterback DJ Williams, the Racers got into the end zone with a two-yard pass from Williams to freshman tight end Jake Saathoff to make the score 19-6 going into halftime.

In the first half, the Governors rushed for 189 yards and two touchdowns while the Racers rushed for 94 yards and passed for a touchdown.

The Racers started the second half with the ball in hand, but were unable to go anywhere and were forced to punt again.

From there, the Governors began to move up the field with a 27-yard rush from Layman, then a 14-yard pass to freshman wide receiver Drae McCray. They capped it off with a 17-yard touchdown rush from Tanner to make the score 26-6.



Freshman Running back Demonta Witherspoon rushed for 32 yards on homecoming. Photo courtesy of Dave Winder/Racer Athletics

The Racers made their way up the field on their next drive, moving all the way up to the Austin Peay 29 yard line. The Governors defense managed to hold off the Racers advances and held off freshman running back Demonta Witherspoon on a fourth-down rush.

With the ball back in hand, the Governors made their way down the field with a slow and methodical drive. The drive ended with a two-yard rushing touchdown rush from Tanner to extend the lead and make it 33-6 in favor of the Governors.

After forcing another punt by the Racers, the Governors made their way back down the field for another touchdown pass from Layman to McCray to make the score 40-6.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Governors forced a fumble on the return and recovered the ball at the Murray State three-yard line. It took just one play for Snead to rush into the end zone for the touchdown and extend their lead to 41.

Neither team managed to score

again before the end of the game, leading to a 41-point loss by the Racers, their largest loss of the season. The final score was 47-6.

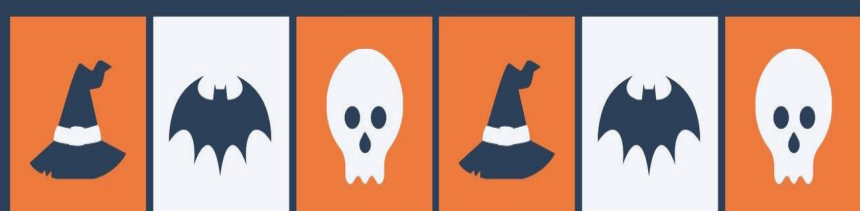
Before the game, Turner said everyone was locked in and ready.

"This week at practice, it went really well," Turner said. "We were amped up, we were ready to play and were locked into the tools and the tools. No one made any mistakes really. This game just slipped from us."

Hood was also asked about the practice throughout the week leading up to the game against the Governors. He said he thought the team practiced really well during the week.

"We practiced really well on Tuesday and Wednesday – our two big work days," Hood said. "I thought we had a lot of energy after the SEMO game. I really thought we were locked in mentally ... practice wise, there weren't any issues this week."

The Racers travel on Saturday, Oct. 30, to take on Eastern Illinois in their third conference matchup of the season. The game is set to kick off at 5 p.m.



UPCOMING GAMES

Volleyball: Friday at Belmont at 6 p.m., Saturday at Belmont at 2 p.m.

Cross Country (Men's and Women's): OVC Championship in Nashville on Saturday

Football: Saturday at Tennessee at 5 p.m.

Soccer: OVC tournament game at home at 1 p.m.



Pam Goodwin/The News

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Mason Galemore/*The News*

Professor of Sociology Diane Nititham's research exhibit 'Emergent SocialScapes' is on display at the Murray Art Guild until Saturday, Oct. 30.

Research exhibit showcases Ireland, Philippines

Mason Galemore
Contributing Writer
mgalemore@murraystate.edu

With photos from her study abroad trips to Ireland and the Philippines spanning back to 2006, Professor of Sociology Diane Nititham showcased her project "Emergent SocialScapes." The project is on display at the Murray Art Guild.

Nititham's work was chosen because she was able to practice sociology and ethnography effectively using photography, said Murray Art Guild Director Debi Henry Danielson.

"Nititham used visual data to support her research," Danielson

said. "With a visual aspect, one can put a human characteristic to numbers and an emotional characteristic to research. It is a great combination."

Ireland and other countries in Europe have experienced an increase in immigration, Nititham said. As a result, these countries form new hybrid cultures, like the Filipino communities in Ireland.

"Immigration has started a new conversation. It has asked the question of what it means to be Irish—not just in the physical landscape but in the social landscape."

—Professor of Sociology Diane Nititham

"Immigration has started a new conversation," Nititham said. "It has asked the question of what it means to be Irish—not just in the physical landscape but in the social landscape."

Some of the photos in the exhibition portray small moments from everyday life. The best way to make connections between cultures is to find the mundane moments because those moments have the most connection, she said.

Many of the immigrants have to travel from country to country before making it to Ireland, she said. This is because they don't have enough money or resources to travel directly to

Europe or the United States. Anti-immigration notions that blame immigrants for specific issues such as economic instability, she said, have been around since the creation of modern borders.

"People have been migrating for a millennia. The way we think of borders and who gets to belong and who doesn't get to belong is an active choice we make."

—Professor of Sociology Diane Nititham

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Pride Center, Alliance celebrate LGBT expression

October events honor LGBT History Month

Erinn Finley
Staff Writer
efinley1@murraystate.edu

The Pride Center and Alliance are both working to bring the community together during Pride History Month through events and encouragement of self-expression.

The Pride Center has celebrated expression throughout the month of October, said Abigail Cox, the interim coordinator of the Pride Center.

"Expressing pride and support through the Pride List and celebrating gender expression through our clothing and makeup events," Cox said. "We want to provide the community with safe spaces to express their identity."

A display of important historical figures, such as Frida Kahlo and Bayard Rustin, is installed outside of the Pride Center.

Alliance provides support and social activities for LGBTQ students and allies. They sometimes partner with the Pride Center or attend events at the Pride Center.

This month, they celebrated by partnering with the Pride Center to provide pronoun and Pride flag buttons.

Buczek-Langham said this month's significance to Alliance is that they have the ability to be present on Murray State's campus.

"There was a time when this club wouldn't have had a place on campus and we now have the honor of celebrating our true selves every week with our allies and other members of the community," Buczek-Langham said.

The Pride Center employees also work to support safe spaces, which allies across Murray State provide for the students. A safe space is a place where people can be sure they won't be exposed to discrimination, criticism or any other emotional or physical harm. There is Safety Zone training being offered through Zoom for those interested in creating safe spaces.

Cox said through the Safe Space program, conversations and collaborations, they want to build a network of support across the University.

"We want the Pride Center to be a space that students study, socialize, eat lunch, relax between classes, etc.," Cox said. "We want to be a gathering place for the community."

Alliance members also have the goal of bringing the community together and to preserve authenticity for LGBTQ identities.

Cox said their LGBTQ community received a tremendous amount of support during COVID-19, which was evidenced in the Pride List.

The Pride List is a record



Photo courtesy of Alliance's Instagram

Alliance is selling beanies and T-shirts at their meetings to fund future events.

that anyone affiliated with the University can sign. The purpose of the list is to give people a chance to show their support for the LGBTQ community at Murray State.

Cox said numerous faculty, staff and administrators have reached out to support and help what the Pride Center is doing.

"COVID has been a reset for us all in many ways, allowing us to reevaluate and do things differently," Cox said. "For the Pride Center, we started with listening to our students. We sent out an interest survey that 49 students completed. We have used that information to shape what we are doing this year."

As a social group, Alliance members host activities such as tie dye, bowling and movie nights. Buczek-Langham said the group focuses on hosting outdoor activities when possible or events in large indoor spaces.

"Our members are overjoyed that we can finally meet back in person once again and that is something we look forward to continuing," Buczek-Langham said.

Currently, Alliance has beanies and T-shirts for sale in the Pride Center. The proceeds go towards funding future Alliance meetings.

For more information, visit @msualliance28 or @msu_lgbt on Instagram.

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“People have been migrating for a millennia,” Nititham said. “The way we think of borders and who gets to belong and who doesn’t get to belong is an active choice we make.”

The Philippines experienced exploitation by foreign countries such as the United States and Spain throughout history. It was a colony of Spain from 1565 to 1898. Following the Spanish-American War, the U.S. subjected Filipinos to imprisonment, torture and death during the Filipino Insurrection.

The past mistreatment of Filipinos has influenced this desire of many Filipinos to seek a better life, Nititham said. Their history does not disprove the fact that they are capable and hardworking, she said.

The more diverse the world becomes, Nititham said, the more we as citizens are able to make connections. She said having a collective diversity of opportunities for everyone can be beneficial.

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“I hope that my exhibition and future research have offered those opportunities for those who have been actively put in the shadows and excluded,” Nititham said. “I hope that through these photos I am bringing their voices forward. These stories are vital to our own humanity.”

The exhibit will be up until Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Murray Art Guild on 500 N. 4th Street.



Diane Nititham (bottom right) explores photography during her trips to Ireland and the Philippines, capturing everyday moments.

Mason Galemore/The News

Photo Club helps students capture creative side

Emery Wainscott
Lifestyle Editor
ewainscott@murraystate.edu

The Murray State Photo Club offers hands-on experience to interested students, from work in the darkroom to nighttime photography at the Arboretum.

Everyone is welcome to join the club, including students with no experience or if they only have their smartphones, Assistant Professor of Photography and New Media Cintia Segovia Figueroa said.

Segovia Figueroa restarted the Photo Club this semester. She started her position at Murray State teaching analog and digital photography and video for both web and installations three months ago.

“Photography is everywhere,” Segovia Figueroa said. “As a society, we take more photos than ever before. I wanted to create an organization where students could learn new skills that will help their portfolio and explore the fun of photography.”

For their first order of business, the Photo Club held elections for leadership positions. Freshman graphic communications media major Emma Fisher ran for president since she served in leadership roles in the past. Fisher delivered a speech about her photography and

leadership experience to the members of the club. After an anonymous vote, Fisher won.

“Photography is such a passion of mine,” Fisher said. “So I thought to just put myself out there and go for it. I joined the photography club because I love photography. It can really showcase a different perspective on life.”

Segovia Figueroa is the faculty adviser, meaning she helps plan events and assist with how to fund activities. At the end of the day, however, Segovia Figueroa said the members work together and pick their best ideas.

“Anyone can take a snapshot these days, but creating a photograph that communicates an idea effectively has the power to change people’s minds and hearts, or at least get them to think,” Segovia Figueroa said. “Whether it portrays reality or creates a whole new world, the photographer has a powerful voice.”

Fisher said the Photo Club offers the chance for students to embrace their creative sides, whether beginners or experts, whether they practice photography as a hobby or for a career.

For Fisher, her interests lie on the career side. Currently, she works for Murray State’s photo department and for *The News* as a photographer.

Segovia Figueroa said she teaches photography because of her passion



Photo courtesy of Cintia Segovia Figueroa

The Photo Club will be selling prints and buttons at the “Monster Mash” today.

for students. She said she hopes they take the skills learned and the tools used in class to create creative visual narratives through photography and video.

“I love when students begin to understand photography at a deeper level than what their smartphones can offer,” Segovia Figueroa said. “When I see their faces in the darkroom as they see a photograph developing in the chemistry, it’s a priceless experience.”

The Photo Club will be setting

up a photo booth for students in costume at Monster Mash from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today. The club also will be selling prints and photography-themed buttons.

Segovia Figueroa said the proceeds from the sale will go towards funding student travel.

The club will host a nighttime event at the Arboretum for photographers to take photos of the sky and experiment with long exposure on Nov. 12.

Photo Club meets at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays in Fine Arts Room 735.