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Photo Courtesy of Leigha Bartlett
 Donations can be made to Evan Barr's GoFundMe at <https://gofundme/d51c5cf8>.

GoFundMe set to support student for accident recovery

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Graduate student and Murray State Alumnus Evan Barr was involved in a shotgun misfiring accident on Sunday, Nov. 7. Barr graduated in Spring 2021 with a Bachelors in wildlife conservation biology and he is pursuing a masters in the same field. Barr currently is being treated for his injuries in a hospital, and according to his friend, junior wildlife conservation biology major, Leigha Bartlett, Barr is recovering well. "His doctors said that if he is not able to make a full recovery, he'll surely make a wonderful recovery," Bartlett said. Bartlett realized a part of recovering is having to pay for all of the medical costs. To help Barr, she set up a GoFundMe for Barr. Bartlett said recovery is a long and expensive process. The GoFundMe was made on Tuesday, Nov. 9 with a \$10,000 goal. Nearly \$1,800 has been donated to date. Anyone wanting to donate can do so at <https://gofundme/d51c5cf8>. "Consider donating to Evan's fund or sharing it with friends and families," Bartlett said.



Racers Empower hosted pet therapy in Alexander Hall as a way to help students to de-stress.
 Photo Courtesy of Racers Empower

Throughout the pandemic an emphasis has been made on campus mental health

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On-campus groups shine a light on the importance of mental health and create events to provide students with resources. According to the Active Minds website, approximately 89% of college students are experiencing stress or anxiety because of COVID-19.

COVID-19 has led to a significant increase in young people reporting mental health issues, but 67% of college students do not seek treatment, according to Active Minds. Active Minds is a national non-profit organization that brings awareness to mental health and provides education on these issues to young adults. Murray State's Active Minds chapter president, Olivia Yaste,

said COVID-19 has affected students' overall mental health. "The lack of contact during the worst of the pandemic still has lingering effects and students continue to feel social anxiety when they need friends more than ever," Yaste said. "Having friends as a support group is extremely important in helping manage anxiety and stress, but the pandemic has made it difficult to form new relationships and maintain connections." Yaste said the idea of meeting others during this time can cause stress for some people.
 see mental health, page 3

Celebration recognizes first generation students, launches first time scholarship

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The Center for Student Engagement and Success hosted its third annual first-generation celebration on Nov. 4 to recognize and celebrate students who are the first in their families that are on the path to graduate from college. The Center for Student Engagement and Success dedicates their work to helping students find success through guidance, support and looking after the personal well-being of students. The Center for Student Engagement and Success is led by director Peggy Whaley and assistant director Jennifer Smith. "All new students attending college for the first time have a steep learning curve," said Whaley. "First-generation students who have not had parents who have completed a college degree may



Jayden Hayn/The News
 Alumna Alyson Van Hooser delivered a speech about her experience as a first-generation student.

have an even steeper learning curve because they may not have a close relative who can mentor them through the college experience." In addition to connection with first-generation students, the Center for Student Engagement

and Success is involved in other initiatives on campus. Two such initiatives are Racers Empower: Healthy Minds, Healthy Campus and Racers Reconnect.
 see 1st generation celebration, page 2

VACCINE INCENTIVES

The drawing includes:

- \$2,500 scholarship (student)
- \$2,500 award (faculty, staff)

Those who previously uploaded their vaccination cards on MyGate will be entered in a separate drawing with the same prizes.

Rewards will be drawn on Dec. 1.

Emery Wainscott/The News

MURRAY STATE RELATED COVID-19 CASES

Students (Nov. 1 - Nov. 7)	Faculty and Staff (Nov. 1 - Nov. 7)	Weekly Total (Nov.1 - Nov. 7)	Overall Total (Since Aug. 16)
5	0	5	207

Source: murraystate.edu/racerrestart Dionte Berry/The News

Competition highlights student photography



Top: "Shed" by Archie Hardesty, 2nd place
Middle: "Sweet Creature" by Jayla Louis, 3rd place
Bottom: "Pretty Little Liability" by Hannah Daab,

As part of Fall Scholars Week contest challenges students to use images as tools of communication and expression

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The Images of Research Competition, an interdisciplinary contest organized by the Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) for Fall Scholars Week, is underway for the second year.

Dana Thompson, assistant professor of University Libraries, said she came across the idea for the contest and initiated it last year with the help of ORCA Project Coordinator AJ Boston. A panel of professors from various fields judged the competition.

Thompson said the competition demonstrates how images are created in different fields and across different disciplines.

"Images convey information that text cannot," Thompson said. "This competition provides students with the opportunity to communicate about their research in a different and more illustrative way, and perhaps in a way they had not previously considered."

Undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of majors took part in last year's competition. Photograph submissions ranged from informative to creative. Each participant submitted up to three photos and a brief explanation of how the image related to the student's overall research.

Melanie Brandon, graduate student of agriculture, took first place in last year's competition with her entry, "Adult *Dirofilaria immitis* in *Canis latrans*." According to Brandon's explanation, the photograph shows the contents of a coyote's heart. This proved coyotes can carry *Dirofilaria immitis*, or canine heartworms.

Brandon said the photograph only represented a piece of her research.

"Being the only carcasses at the time, it did not help us understand the prevalence of heartworms within the coyote population throughout the state," Brandon said.

"Later on, it, along with 13 other positive cases, shed some light on the regional prevalence of the canine heartworm in Kentucky."

"Shed," a self-portrait photograph by undergraduate graphic design student Archie Hardesty, earned second place in the competition. Hardesty explained the photo represented a personal struggle with gender identity.

"Finding the balance between femininity and masculinity with the need to shed this skin society has shoved onto me," Hardesty said. "Though I have broken through some layers, I still have a long way to go."

TV Production major Jayla Louis' submission "Sweet Creature" took third place. The submission, named after a Harry Styles song, featured an array of toys and other objects at a picnic.

"The stuff I used is all very old and most of the toys used are ones I played with during my childhood, so these pictures are very nostalgic for me," Louis said.

A total of 83 students entered last year's competition. According to the published list of winners in the ORCA student journal, *Steeplechase*, this made a "difficult" decision between submissions that were "engaging, visually stimulating and an excellent representation of the research going on at Murray State University."

A full list of last year's winners and honorable mentions can be found at <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/steeplechase/vol4/iss1>.

Thompson expressed anticipation for this year's competition.

"Last year, we had winning entries from art, business and science majors, so anything is possible," Thompson said.

This year's Images of Research Competition will be on display in the gallery of Waterfield Library from Nov. 15-19.

For a full schedule of events for Fall Scholars Week, visit murraystate.edu/orca.

1st generation celebration, from page 1

"Racers Empower: Healthy Minds, Healthy Campus is an initiative which promotes mental health and well-being, and meets the last Monday of every month," said Smith. "Racers Reconnect is a new initiative targeting our second-year students who didn't have the traditional first-year experience due to COVID. We meet monthly to share resources that help students stay on track and connect with their peers."

The first-generation celebration's keynote speaker was Murray State Alumna Alyson Van Hooser. Van Hooser, a 2010 graduate, detailed her own experiences as a first-generation student.

"It is going to take people like us paving the way, speaking up and building relationships with these students . . . it takes us taking them by the hand and leading them on that journey. That is what 'We are Racers' means," said Van Hooser.

Following her academic career at Murray State, Van Hooser found success in the food, retail and finance industries, and served as a city councilmember. Van Hooser has also released a book titled "LEVEL UP."

"LEVEL UP" explains what someone needs to do to gain respect, find opportunity and to achieve success. "LEVEL UP" also teaches effective, professional strategies to use approaching things like networking and leadership.

The celebration also included remarks by Whaley; Tim Todd, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Jennifer Smith, Assistant Director of the Center for Student Engagement and Success; Abby Hensley, Director of Development for Student Affairs and Hutson School of Agriculture and Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Other notable guests at the celebration included Murray State alumni Travis and Kelly Taylor, class of 2011. Travis and Kelly Taylor were both first-generation students during their time at Murray State.

Travis and Kelly have created Murray State's first scholarship honoring first-generation students which will be awarded during the 2022-2023 academic year.

The first ever first-generation celebration at Murray State was hosted in 2019, and last year's celebration was hosted virtually.



Jayden Hayn/The News

The Travis and Kelly First-Generation Scholarship application is due by Feb. 7.

Moving forward, the Center for Student Engagement would like to continue to improve the event.

"We'll continue to have a great keynote speaker and recognize students," said Whaley. "We may include a student panel so that students can share their experiences and suggestions for success with their peers. Next year, we'll also be able to recognize the first recipient of the Travis and Kelly Taylor First-Generation Student Scholarship."

The Center for Student Engagement and Success encourages all students to get involved with their on campus initiatives. Student Engagement and Success also encourages students to fill out their general scholarship application by Feb. 7. All eligible first-generation students who submit the general scholarship application will be considered for the Travis and Kelly Taylor First-Generation Scholarship.



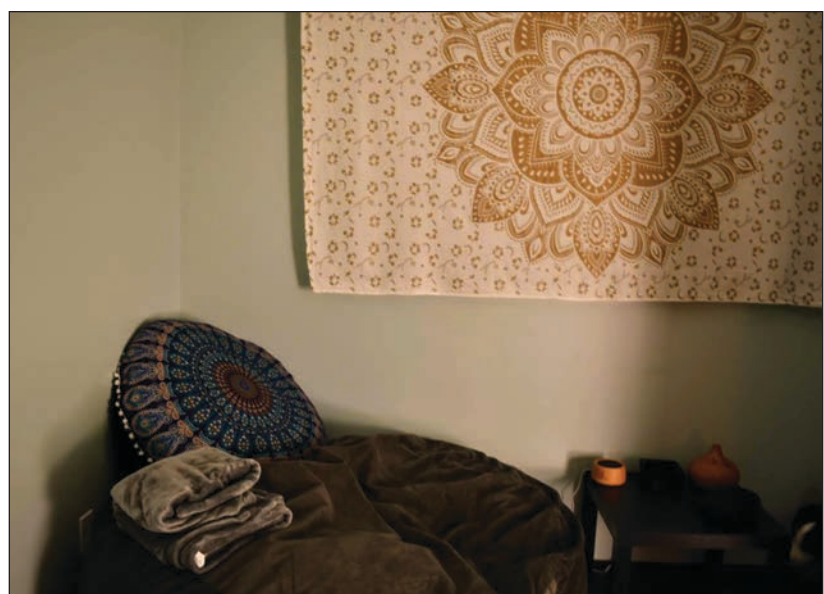
Graphic courtesy of Active Minds
Follow Active Minds on Instagram and Facebook to stay updated on their activities.



Photo courtesy of Racers Empower



Photo courtesy of Racers Empower



Mary Huffman/The News

The Counseling Center in C104 of Oakley Applied Science has a room for de-stressing.

mental health, from page 1

“Now what was supposed to be a stress relief (making friends) is a stressor in and of itself as we try to create new relationships in this strange post-pandemic time,” Yaste said.

The pandemic has brought more awareness to mental health issues, but still negative stereotypes persist, Yaste said.

“I have talked privately with students and friends who don’t want to share about their struggles because they are afraid of how they will be viewed for it,” Yaste said. “They recognize that it is okay for other people to struggle but they don’t want to be associated with the ‘mental health group’ because they don’t view themselves as fitting in with ‘that kind of crowd.’”

Yaste says Active Minds strives to be an inclusive environment.

“No matter how big or small your struggles are, you are absolutely welcome to de-stress with Active Minds,” Yaste said. “Mental health isn’t just the lack of mental illness or struggle, but also about ensuring that you are able to live the kind of healthy and happy life that you want, and while we do sometimes talk about serious topics, we also have a lot of fun.”

Murray State offers several resources on campus that provide students the opportunity to get the help they need or learn more about mental health.

The Counseling Center began offering workshops right after Fall Break to teach students new coping skills to help manage their stress, anxiety and depression.

Angie Trzepacz, director of the University Counseling Center, said what students want to focus on determines the topics of each workshop.

“We will just ask [students] what their priority is for the day, what do you really want to work on,” Trzepacz said. “Depending on how many people are there and what they want to work on, we might be able to cover multiple topics in one session.”

The idea behind the workshops, Trzepacz says, is to teach coping skills to a group of students.

“One [reason] is that a lot of the clients we see were teaching the exact same skills over and over again, so we thought it might be a better use of our time to teach the skills to a group of people instead of one at a time,” she said.

Trzepacz said although group activities may be intimidating, they allow students who are on the waiting list to be assigned to a

counselor to get some sort of service while waiting for an assignment.

Students may work together depending on the topic they want to focus on.

“For example, if [students] wanted to work on assertiveness training or communication skills or something like that, we might pair them up and have them take turns practicing being assertive or giving compliments,” Trzepacz said. “If it’s teaching relaxation training, it would be more individualized.”

“Mental health isn’t just the lack of mental illness or struggle, but also about the ensuring that you are able to live the kind of healthy and happy life you want...”

—Olivia Yaste, President, Active Minds

Trzepacz said students should utilize these workshops with the increase in students reporting depression and anxiety.

“Even though students are experiencing higher levels of anxiety that doesn’t mean they have an anxiety disorder, so they are experiencing some of the symptoms of anxiety,” Trzepacz said. “I think [students] would really benefit from learning these skills and techniques to kind of get the situation under control, so they don’t ever reach the level of being diagnosed with some sort of a disorder.”

The skill-building workshops are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in C104 Oakley Applied Science.

Another office on campus is providing students with mental health resources and tips as well.

The Center for Student Engagement and Success began Racers Empower with the intent to shine a spotlight on the increase in depression among college students.

This idea began in Fall 2019, said Center for Student Engagement and Success Director Peggy Whaley.

“We were seeing more students with depression and anxiety on campus and across other campuses,” Whaley said. “We felt we needed to do some programming to help address that issue.”

Whaley said by attending these events, students can get resources from staff on a number of topics.

“We have resources on how to be mindful, how to practice calming techniques [and] time management skills,” Whaley said. “We have academic related skills, mental

health-related skills [and] we have nutritional skills information.”

Whaley said while attending the Active Minds national conference last February, she heard leaders speak on the need for more mental health services.

“The demand for mental health services was increasing,” Whaley said. “Anxiety and depression are the two leading mental health causes or issues that college students are facing.”

Whaley said Racers Empower gives students the resources they need to learn more about mental health.

“We got a group of faculty, staff and students together and we started talking about what we can do on a regular basis to provide support, resources and have a fun event and just help students talk about mental health issues and also where to go to get help,” Whaley said.

Racers Empower partnered with the Calloway County Humane Society to offer pet therapy this semester and the next to students who attend these events.

The next Racers Empower event, No-Stress November, is Nov. 29 at 11 p.m. in Alexander Hall atrium.



Our View

AP Style fails to reflect the society it serves

Journalism is, by definition, a representation of its readers, and the language journalists use should be inclusive of those readers.

As journalists, we here at *The News* strive to create a space where everyone is represented. This is, however, difficult to do when the stylebook used by many journalists is not up to date on inclusive grammar, which can result in erasure of their identity.

According to “The 2020-22 Associated Press Stylebook,” “they/them/their is acceptable in limited cases as a singular and-or gender-neutral pronoun, when alternative wording is overly awkward or clumsy. However, rewording usually is possible and always is preferable. Clarity is a top priority; gender-neutral use of a singular they is unfamiliar to many readers. We do not use other gender-neutral pronouns such as xe or ze...” In addition, “In stories about people who identify as neither male nor female or ask not to be referred to as he/she/him/her: Use the person’s name in place of a pronoun, or otherwise reword the sentence...” This rule originally appeared in the 2017-19 edition of the “Stylebook,” and has not been revisited since.

We at *The News* believe this rule can be seen as discriminatory and promotes the erasure of gender-non-conforming and nonbinary individuals, and that AP should be held accountable for promoting such discrimination and should make changes to their. Individual papers should also take it upon themselves to disregard such rules.

The AP has made themselves responsible for updating the journalism public on what grammar and terms that are reflective of the public journalists are writing for. “They/Them” is no exception.

At first glance, this rule appears to be made in accordance with the

grammatical “rule” that “they” is a plural pronoun. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, however, there is evidence of the singular they being used in 1300s, and arguments against its use didn’t start appearing until the 18th century.

AP claims that the use of the gender-neutral “they” is unclear and “unfamiliar to most readers.” We find that this statement is incredibly out of touch, especially to be published in 2020. With the widespread use of social media and people sharing their gender identity online, most readers are aware that some people who use gender-neutral pronouns.

“They” was declared as the word of the year in 2019 by Merriam Webster because of the growth of its meaning to encompass singular

non-gender conforming individuals. The term is prevalent and well known.

By ascribing this rule, AP promotes erasure of people who don’t use he/him or she/her pronouns by deliberately excluding those pronouns and providing an unnatural form as an “alternative.” For example, if journalists were to follow this rule, a sentence could appear as “Smith said Smith’s work in the journalism department helped prepare Smith for life after college.” This sentence, despite being about a singular person, reads as if it’s about three different Smiths. This causes more confusion for the reader than if the sentence read, “Smith said their work...”

If AP refuses to reexamine its stance on the use of gender-neutral

pronouns, individual publications should take it upon themselves to promote the use of more inclusive language.

We at *The News* believe that language is not something that can be prescribed. By definition, language is always changing, and telling writers how to use language prevents them from accurately representing their audience.

We call upon The Associated Press to reexamine its stance on using inclusive language and reflect on whether the rules it prescribes are really helping or hindering the accuracy journalism is supposed to convey. We also call upon individual publications to reflect on their use of inclusive language and choose to make changes accordingly.



Cade Utterback/*The News*

“GOOD COP, BAD COP”



Written & Illustrated by Cade Utterback

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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.

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Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Junior forward DJ Williams set a new career high in points on Tuesday, Nov. 9, as he scored 32 points against Cumberland

Basketball starts season with a win

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Basketball season kicked off with a blowout 109-77 win for the Murray State men's basketball team as they defeated the Cumberland University Phoenix on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

Junior forward KJ Williams set a career high in points with 32 in the game while junior guard Tevin Brown scored 21 points and managed to grab seven rebounds.

Williams spoke on his career high in points after the game. He said he had a lot of confidence in himself which allowed him to shoot well throughout the game.

"I came in early today and tried to work on my shots," Williams said. "It turned out very well... I've got some great people behind me. We have some key plays to get people open shots inside and outside the arch so we can all get a chance to score."

Cumberland took a quick and early lead with a three-point basket from senior guard Tavon King. Williams answered with a three-pointer of his own on the other end, but junior guard Tyler Byrd made another three for the Phoenix to make it 6-3.

Sophomore guard Justice Hill came back with a three-pointer for the Racers followed up by another three-pointer from Williams to give the Racers a 10-6 lead.

Williams remained perfect from three-point-range on his next shot with a three-point shot

from the top of the key to extend the Racers' lead to 15-8.

Freshman forward Nichollas McMullen came off the bench and quickly scored his first points of the game with a layup. Brown made a three-pointer on the Racers' next possession to give them a 20-11 lead.

Brown was fouled on the Racers' next possession and went to the line to shoot three free-throws. He missed all three and junior guard Jordan Stevens made sure Brown paid the price with a three-pointer on the other end. Brown managed to get his points back, though, with a three-pointer on the Racers end of the court. This put the Racers ahead 23-14.

Later on in the half, Williams made another three-pointer that put him at 13 points and 4-4 shooting from the field. The scoring kept coming for the Racers as senior guard Carter Collins made a three-pointer to make it 37-21 in favor of the Racers.

Collins spoke postgame about his first game as a part of the Racers. He said his appearance at Murray State was a long time coming. "It was amazing," Collins said. "There was a lot of built up excitement. There was a lot of hard work, effort and time put into this. To get that first game off my chest was exciting and fun. I enjoyed it."

The Phoenix started to form a comeback as time started to wind down with a three-pointer from senior guard Kelvin Jackson and a layup from King. Williams held the Phoenix off with his fifth

three-pointer of the game, but Cumberland kept fighting back with a three-pointer from Byrd.

Williams managed to make a layup but King quickly answered with one of his own to end the half and cut the deficit to just 10. At halftime, the Racers led the Phoenix 55-45.

At halftime, Williams led the Racers with 22 points on 7-7 shooting from the field and 5-5 shooting from three-point range. Brown recorded 11 points and six rebounds with 3-7 shooting from the field.

King led the Phoenix in the first half with 10 points, followed closely behind by senior guard Aaron Ridley with nine. As a team, Cumberland had just four assists in the half, all of which came from sophomore guard Tj Stargell.

The second half was ruled by the Racers, who started the half with an 8-0 run. The run included a layup from sophomore forward DJ Burns as well as a three pointer and a mid-range shot from Brown.

The Racers continued to build on their lead with a three-pointer from Collins that was followed by a dunk from Williams. This put the Racers up 70-50.

An alley-oop dunk from sophomore guard Trae Hannibal to senior forward Jordan Skipper-Brown sparked another run for the Racers. During the run, Brown made another three-pointer for the Racers, followed by a layup from Skipper-Brown to give the Racers a 79-51 lead.

Later in the half, King made a

three-pointer to try to cut the deficit, but the Racers continued their push to grow the lead with a pair of layups from Williams and Hill to give the Racers a 89-59 lead.

The Racers were able to hit 100 points in the game with a layup from Hannibal late in the half, then cross 100 with another layup from Hannibal to make it 102-70 in favor of Murray State.

The Racers grew their lead a little more with a layup from sophomore guard Rod Thomas to end the game. The Racers defeated the Phoenix 109-77.

Williams and Brown finished with 32 points and 21 points, respectively. Williams shot 12-13 from the field and 5-6 from three point range. Brown also recorded seven rebounds and five assists. Hill ended the game with 12 points and 8 assists.

Head Coach Matt McMahon spoke about the team's performance during the game. He said he was happy with the team's performance, especially on offense.

"I was really pleased with our players' unselfishness and execution on the offensive side of the floor," McMahon said. "I hope we can shoot the ball like that all season long... I think we have a talented team. We just have to keep building the team and getting better each day in practice."

The Racers start their season with a 1-0 record. They continue their season at home on Saturday, Nov. 13, when they take on Bellarmine University at 7 p.m.

Womens Basketball dominates Asbury

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The Murray State women's basketball team opened their season with a 79-40 win over the Asbury University Eagles on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

Sophomore forwards Katelyn Young and Hannah McKay led the way for the Racers with 20 points and 16 points respectively.

The Eagles took an early lead with a layup from sophomore forward Trinity Shearer, but McKay answered with a layup of her own. Sophomore forward Taylor Paige went back down the court and made a three-point shot to make it 5-2 Eagles.

From there, the Racers went on a long 17-0 run that started with a mid-range jump shot from Young, who made the next four shots as well. Senior forward Alexis Burpo and sophomore forward Charlee Settle added to the run with a pair of layups, while McKay made a layup of her own.

Senior guard Macey Turley made a three-point basket to end the run and put the Racers up 19-5.

The scoring didn't stop there though as senior guard Lex Mayes hit a three-pointer to end the first quarter with the Racers up 26-7. The Eagles came out swing-

ing in the second quarter with five quick points from graduate forward Autumn Herriford to make it 26-12 in favor of the Racers.

The Racers finished the half with a 17-0 run, including points from Young, McKay, freshman forward Jaidah Black and a three pointer from Lex Mayes to end the half.

Herriford and Taylor led the Eagles with five points each. The Eagles only recorded 18 rebounds in the half and just two assists.

Paige and Herriford were the first to score in the third quarter with a pair of mid-range jump shots. The Racers came right back with a three-pointer from Turley and a pair of free-throws from Young to make it 51-16 Racers.

Shearer answered with a layup, followed by a three-pointer from junior guard Jaclynn Ruble to make it 51-21 Racers.

Young made a layup on the Racers next possession but Herriford went back down the court to hit a three-pointer. Freshman guard Cayson Conner answered that with a three of her own which marked her first basket as a Racer. The three-pointer put the Racers up 56-24.

The Eagles managed to hold the Racers scoreless for the next 3:13 while scoring six points of their own with a three-pointer from se-



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Sophomore forward Katelyn Young recorded a double-double in the Racers win over Asbury.

nior forward Sarah Dennison and another three from sophomore forward Spencer Harvey. The two three-pointers cut the Racers lead by six and made it 56-30.

The Racers drought ended with a pair of free throws by Young. The Eagles had an answer, though, as Harvey was able to make a mid-range jumper on the other end of the court to make it 58-32 Racers.

Burpo ended the quarter with an and-one play by making a layup and getting fouled in the process. She made her free throw and that marked the end of the third quarter with the Racers up 61-32.

The Racers were the first to score in the fourth quarter with back-to-back layups from Young and McKay. Shearer answered with a three-pointer on the other end, but Turley kept the momentum in the Racers' favor with a mid-range jumper to make it 67-32.

Dennison was able to make a quick

layup over a defender, then Harvey knocked down a three pointer to try to get some offense going for the Eagles.

Those would be the last of the Eagles' points, however, as the Racers closed out the game on a 12-0 run with points from Black, freshman guard Clair McGowan and junior forward Isabell West. The Racers defeated the Eagles 79-40.

Head Coach Rochelle Turner spoke postgame about how well the team played. She said the team will always take a win for their first game of the season.

"Anytime you can get a first win of the season, especially at home, you'll take that," Turner said. "I wasn't extremely thrilled with our execution in the second half, but those things happen."

The Racers started their season 1-0 and continue their season on Thursday, Nov. 11, as they travel to take on the University of Missouri. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Football takes first conference win

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The Murray State football team picked up its first conference win on Saturday, Nov. 6, defeating the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles 32-27. Head Coach Dean Hood spoke about the Racers' performance in the game. He said he was very proud of how the team came out and performed following the loss the week before. "It's a tough thing in this game to come back from a close loss like we did against Tennessee State," Hood said. "It's just tough to get suited up the next week and be locked in. I think that's the most energy we've had all year on this sideline."

Freshman running back Demonta Witherspoon rushed for 89 yards and a touchdown in the game. Sophomore cornerback Marcis Floyd had two interceptions and took one interception back for a touchdown. Floyd also tacked on seven tackles and a sack.

The Racers scored on their first drive with a 47-yard field goal from junior kicker Aaron Baum to put them up 3-0. The field goal was set up by a series of runs, including a 16-yard rush from freshman quarterback DJ Williams.

The Racers held the Golden Eagles to a punt on the following drive. This allowed Williams to go to work on offense as he threw a 32-yard pass to junior wide receiver LaMarte Brooks. The pass set up a three yard touchdown rush from Witherspoon to give the Racers a 10-0 lead in the first quarter. Sophomore quarterback Willie Miller had an answer for the Racers' defense on the Golden Eagles' second drive as he threw a 26-yard pass to sophomore wide receiver Quilton

Cross on their second play.

Junior running back David Gist did the rest of the work on the drive, first with a 20-yard rush, then with a six-yard touchdown run to close the lead to three at the end of the quarter. The Racers led the Golden Eagles 10-7 heading into the second quarter.

Williams fired back at the Golden Eagles on the next drive with a 20-yard rush to start the drive, then with a 10-yard pass to freshman tight-end Jake Saathoff. The pass set up a six-yard touchdown rush from Williams to put the Racers up 17-7.

Miller opened the Golden Eagles' next drive with an 18-yard pass to Cross to gain some yardage. The next time Miller dropped back to pass, he chucked the ball downfield right into the arm of Floyd who returned the interception 90 yards for a touchdown for the Racers. This gave Murray State a 24-7 lead.

Floyd spoke about his pick-six in the second quarter. He gave a lot of credit to his fellow players who helped him get to the end zone.

"When I got the ball, all I saw was great blocks and green grass," Floyd said. "I got to see myself run on the big screen for the first time so that was exciting."

After the two teams traded punts with one-another, the Golden Eagles started to put together a drive. After completing another pass to Cross, Miller looked to throw deep again and was again picked off by Floyd, who brought the ball from the end zone to the Murray State 27-yard line with 1:01 to go in the first half.

The Racers began their drive slowly, but after a timeout by the Golden Eagles, Williams unloaded a 30-yard pass to Brooks to put the Racers in field goal range with six seconds left in the half. Baum did the rest of the work as he made the 46-



Photo courtesy of Dave Winder/Racer Athletics
Sophomore cornerback Marcis Floyd returned an interception for a touchdown in the Racers win.

yard field goal attempt to put the Racers up 27-7 at halftime.

Tennessee Tech began the second half with the ball and they took as much time off the clock as they could on their way down the field. With the exception of a 29-yard rush from Gist, not a single play in the drive went over nine yards. The Golden Eagles made their way down and into the end zone with a three-yard rush from freshman running back Jordan Brown. This cut the Racers' lead to 13 with 8:24 left in the third quarter.

That was the last time a team scored in the quarter, though, as both teams punted on each of the next four drives. As the game headed into the fourth quarter, Murray State was up 27-14.

After starting the fourth quarter with a punt, the Racers forced a fumble on the Golden Eagles' first play. That put the Racers on the Tennessee Tech 10-yard line. The Golden Eagles' defense held strong and kept the Racers out of the end zone leaving Baum to kick a 21-yard field goal. After the field goal, the Racers were up 30-14.

The Golden Eagles opted for a switch at quarterback for the game and put in graduate cornerback Shanley Davis. Davis was quick to work out the de-

fense as he rushed for a 20-yard gain, then passed to Cross for a 23-yard gain. It took just two plays after the pass for Brown to get back into the end zone.

The Golden Eagles opted for a two-point conversion attempt after Brown's touchdown. Davis dropped back to pass and threw to Gist for the extra points, but Floyd jumped the route and took the ball 100 yards for a "pick-2." That put the Racers up over the Golden Eagles 32-20.

As time started to tick down, the Golden Eagles were running out of chances to gain the lead. With 2:30 left on the clock, they began to put a drive together with a 44-yard pass from Davis to freshman wide receiver Tanner Shiver. Gist capped off the drive with a two-yard touchdown rush to cut the lead to just five with 58 seconds left.

The Golden Eagles were forced to attempt an onside kick, but the Racers were able to recover the kick and kneel out the rest of the game. Murray State defeated Tennessee Tech by a score of 32-27.

The Racers pick up their first conference win of the season and improve to 4-5 overall. They play their final home game of the season on Saturday, Nov. 13, when they take on SEMO at 1 p.m.

Volleyball splits senior series vs SEMO

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The Murray State volleyball team split a two-game series with Southeast Missouri State University during their senior night weekend at Racer Arena on Friday, Nov. 5, and Saturday, Nov. 6.

Game One

Murray State dropped the first game of the series to the Redhawks 3-1.

Murray State took the early lead in the first set at 12-6 with kills from sophomore opposite hitter Jayla Holcombe, senior middle blocker Kolby McClelland, senior outside hitter Emily Matson and freshman outside hitter Brooke Lynn Watts. SEMO fought back with a 13-2 run, taking the lead at 21-15. The Racers regained the lead after an 8-1 run put them ahead 24-23. The Redhawks, however, took control, closing out the set 27-25.

The teams tied the score at eight in the second set with kills from McClelland and sophomore middle blocker Taylor Beasley and blocks from McClelland, Holcombe and freshman outside hitter Alexa Harris. The Redhawks, however, took off on a 17-5 scoring run and closed out the set 25-13.

The Racers turned the third set around as they jumped to an early 10-4 lead with kills from McClelland, Harris, Watts and freshman setter Bailey DeMier. SEMO closed the gap, tying the score at 16. Murray State, however, answered with a 7-1 run to take the lead at 23-17. The Redhawks scored four straight points, but still trailed the Racers 24-22 when a kill from Holcombe finished the set 25-22.

SEMO kept control of the fourth set as they jumped out to an early 6-2 lead. After trading points with the Racers, the Redhawks increased their lead to 22-13 with an 8-2 run before ultimately finishing the set 25-17 and taking the game 3-1.

Watts led the Racers' offense with 14 kills followed by Holcombe with 11 and Harris with nine. Holcombe counted five block assists while Beasley had three and McClelland added two.

Senior libero Becca Fernandez collected 24 digs to lead the Racers' defense while sophomore defensive specialist Dahlia Miller added 15 and DeMier finished with 11. DeMier also tallied 39 assists to record a double-double.

Game Two

After honoring seniors McClelland, Matson, Fernandez and manager Drew Langston, Murray



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics
Senior libero Becca Fernandez recorded 41 digs in her last home series for the Racers.

State swept SEMO 3-0 to finish their last weekend home game.

The teams stayed close in points in the first set, tying the score at 14 with kills from Matson, McClelland, Watts, Holcombe, DeMier and Beasley. Murray State used a 7-2 run to take the lead at 21-16 before eventually closing the set 25-22.

Kills from Holcombe, Matson, Watts and Beasley put the Racers ahead 9-4 in the second set. The teams traded points until tying the score at 21. With four straight points, the Racers finished the set 25-21.

The teams tied the score at 11 in the third set before the Racers used a 5-1 run to take the lead at 16-12 with kills from Holcombe, Matson and McClelland and

a block from Matson and McClelland. The Racers followed with a 6-0 run to lead 22-15. A kill from Holcombe sealed the set at 25-21, and the game 3-0.

Watts finished with 12 kills to lead the Racers' offense followed by Holcombe with nine kills and Beasley with six. Beasley and Matson each counted two solo blocks while McClelland finished with three block assists.

Fernandez led the defense with 17 digs, followed by Miller with 13 and Matson with nine. DeMier tallied 32 assists.

The Racers will close out the regular season as they take on Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on Friday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m. in Edwardsville, Illinois.

Fraternity hosts fundraiser for mental health group

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To give back to the Murray State community and bring awareness to mental health, the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity donated \$3,000 to Murray State's Active Minds Chapter.

Active Minds is a nonprofit organization that provides awareness for mental health issues and education on these issues for young adults, according to their website.

Vice President of Philanthropy and Service Jacob Wilkes said the idea to raise money for the chapter was a group effort.

"Our whole organization wanted to help out Active Minds and what they do so we decided as a group we were going to donate the proceeds to them," Wilkes said.

The fundraiser was a talent show held on Oct. 15 in the Curtis Center Theatre, according to the Alpha Sigma Phi Instagram page.

Wilkes said ticket sales, entry fees, donations and T-shirt sales went toward Active Minds.

The talent show featured eight acts from sorority members, with Sigma Sigma Sigma member Leighton Solomon winning first place.

"She sang 'The Man Who Can't Be Moved' and played guitar as well," Wilkes said. "It was an amazing performance that won over the hearts of the judges and the audience both."

Wilkes said the chapter chose to donate to Active Minds because of their past relationship with the group.

"They are one of our five philanthropic partners for our fraternity and so we chose them this time because we did a lot of work with them last year," Wilkes said.

"We wanted to donate somewhere where we know it would be getting used near [campus]."

Active Minds President Olivia Yaste said the contribution from Alpha Sigma Phi will go toward club activities.

"The money goes toward things such as supplies for de-stress-crafts and activities, guest speakers on mental health and student mental health resources," Yaste said.

Yaste said the funds will help get more students involved with Active Minds.

"Planning exciting activities for large groups of people simply requires resources," Yaste said. "This way we are able to provide a great time and safe place for members without ever having to ask for a membership fee to fund activities."

Students need a place to discuss their feelings without feeling stressed, Yaste said.

"Everyone deserves to have a safe place to talk about mental health and access to some fun times without worrying about how they will fit it into their budget," Yaste said.

Alpha Sigma Phi has planned another philanthropy event that will benefit an off-campus cause.

Lofton Hazelwood was a University of Kentucky student from Henderson who died on Oct. 18 of "apparent alcohol poisoning," according to the *Courier Journal*. Hazelwood's family members have created an endowment in memory of Hazelwood. The endowment will be used for scholarships for those from the Henderson area.

Wilkes said many people on campus knew Hazelwood, so they wanted to find a way to spread awareness of the negative effects of hazing.

"A lot of guys in our fraternity were close to Lofton, and I know



Photo courtesy of Olivia Yaste

Jacob Wilkes presents the check to Olivia Yaste, president of Active Minds.

a lot of people at Murray State were, and we really want to shine a light on his situation because it affected a lot of people," Wilkes said.

"I think the endowment goes towards helping people get scholarships for ag, so that will be nice," Wilkes said.

Wilkes said Alpha Sigma Phi enjoys getting to help organizations both on and off campus.

"We love getting to help, obviously these groups for charity, but whenever we can also help out a smaller cause, it's a lot more special because it's going to a specific person instead of a group," Wilkes said.

Wilkes said Alpha Sigma Phi will continue to donate to Active Minds but hopes to help out other mental health advocacy groups

on campus.

"We are going to keep donating to Active Minds, I'm sure we'll do another [fundraiser] next semester," Wilkes said. "I haven't really heard of any other [mental health] groups, but if there are some other ones we would love to help them out as well."

Yaste said she is grateful for the continued support from Alpha Sigma Phi.

"Alpha Sigma Phi has helped us out before in the past, so I was really excited when Jacob said he wanted to continue the partnership," Yaste said. "They are always so helpful and supportive."

Alpha Sigma Phi rebate night to support the Lofton Hazelwood Endowment is being held today from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Don Sol.

Metalsmithing alum shares daily life, promotes exhibit

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Alum Jo Bennett's typical work day starts with a cup of coffee, the WKMS morning news and a thorough read of some theory and research.

Once in their art studio, they prepare for a full day of productions and commissions, with maybe a client consultation or two.

"[My favorite things are] the ability to manipulate a material that is often seen as hard and unmoving," Bennett said. "I continue to be amazed by what can be done with just a little know-how. Second, it's seeing the appreciation from customers, hearing how much they love wearing or using what I create, often showing off when they see me."

Bennett creates art pieces through metalsmithing. Metalsmithing uses a variety of processes such as casting, forging and fabrication, Bennett said.

Bennett rents their art studio space from The Murray Art Guild, where they also volunteer, assisting with the Guild Market and answering visitors' or workshop participants' questions.

Their exhibition, "remnants," after two years in the making, opened as scheduled on Friday, Nov. 5 at the Murray Art Guild.

While studying art and design at Murray State, they discovered metalsmithing and use it today in their own studio, JBenn Studio. Some of the commissioned pieces they make are legacy pieces, such as

a reformed piece of jewelry made out of a mother's and grandmother's wedding rings.

Originally, Bennett's career plan was to attend pastry school and work in a bakery. After graduating, they said they lost interest in this field, but still wanted to continue with art, so they returned to Murray State to join the art and design program.

"As part of the program, I took the opportunity to explore as many areas and processes as possible but eventually fell in love with the craft area, resulting in a dual emphasis in metalsmithing and woodworking," Bennett said.

Their exhibition features work from college until now. Bennett said they regard it as a continuation of their past work.

"I've always been drawn to the nature of fragility and ephemera, as well as the desperate attempts we often take to preserve memory or prevent loss," Bennett said. "The result is an object which acts as both memorial and memento mori."

After graduating from Murray State, Bennett found themselves without a studio to work in. They said they left their previous job because of both personal and medical reasons.

"I figured I'd rather break my back doing what I love than to do so at a dead end job lacking in support and appreciation," Bennett said. "This decision was made easier with the tremendous support of everyone at the Guild as well as friends and colleagues in the greater smithing community."

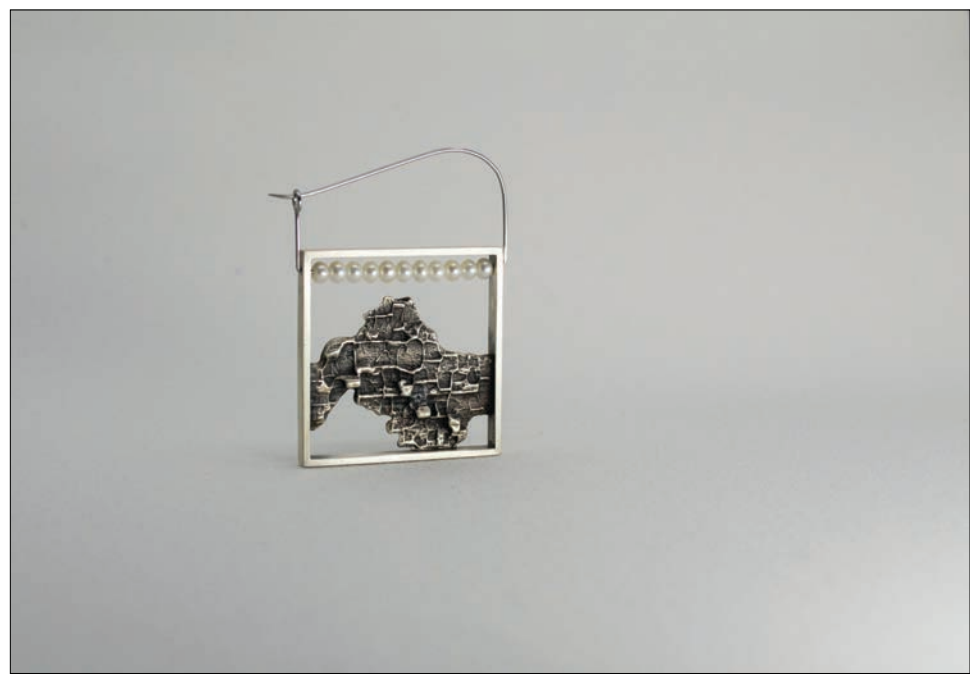


Photo courtesy of Jo Bennett

This piece from Jo Bennett's fragmentation series uses cast and fabricated sterling silver with pearls.

As a solution, they decided to rent a private studio of Murray Art Guild's in 2018. They said the environment at the Guild is incredibly supportive towards their efforts as an artist.

"I'm honestly not sure where I'd be without them," Bennett said. "In fact, this show was scheduled two years ago this month when I announced I'd be going into business for myself as a full-time artist, jeweler and metalsmith. It's been quite the opportunity to build toward and I'm ever grateful for their support and willingness to help celebrate this milestone with me."

After a day at the studio, Bennett said they feel exhausted, but the work isn't done yet. Administrative work, like accounting, social media, emails or answering phone calls takes up many of their nights.

"The best nights, however, are

ones where I get to work on personal projects as I continue to explore other forms of media; lately its fibers and weaving," Bennett said. "Despite all this work and at times not-so-fun tasks, I've yet to wake up dreading my job."

Bennett said they draw inspiration from many local artists.

"There are so many talented artists here in Murray and the surrounding area, it's hard to say," Bennett said. "I think what inspires me most is their determination and dedication to the craft they love so much, as well as their sense of community and willingness to share knowledge and support others in an effort to grow the art community and ensure its continued survival."

The reception for "remnants" will be at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 12 at the Murray Art Guild.

New English professor brings fresh perspective

Erinn Finley

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Assistant Professor of English T.J. Martinson, who began working in the Department of English and Philosophy this fall, brings the perspective of a published writer to the creative writing program.

Martinson received his doctorate in English from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. His doctorate program also included a minor in literature and science.

"I was a literature focus, but even more specifically, postmodern literature," Martinson said. "My dissertation was on metafiction, which is fiction about fiction."

Martinson went on to explain that metafiction is self-aware fiction. The movie "Deadpool" is an example of this type of fiction because the titular character is aware he is in a movie.

Carrie Jerrell, associate professor of English and coordinator of the creative writing program, said Martinson was hired to fill one of two vacancies in the creative writing department.

Martinson wrote his dissertation on a book called "The House of Leaves." In his article, he said the novel models the scientific idea of epigenetics because of the author's use of empty space.

Epigenetics refers to the idea that a mutation in the genetic code can be passed onto offspring. Martinson said researchers are looking for ways to model epigenetics.

"A lot of my research is what we would call formalist readings of novels," Martinson said. "So looking at, literally, the form of it and how can we understand this form,

what's the value of this form, how might it help us explain, in my case, nonliterary things or scientific forms."

Martinson wrote a novel titled "The Reign of the Kingfisher," published in 2019. His book is about Kingfisher, a superhero, who is believed to be dead by the public. Martinson said he began writing the novel in 2015, when the Marvel Cinematic Universe was expanding, creating movies for every superhero.

"That fascinated me that superheroes were so firmly in the zeitgeist and I loved the idea of trying to contribute and write my own superhero," Martinson said.

Martinson said it was challenging to write this story without immediately following the storyline most superhero stories use. He said he enjoyed trying to find a way to write a superhero narrative in a way that had not been done before.

Jerrell said what stood out about Martinson's qualifications was that he had interests in both scholarship writing and his personal writing. His interests seemed to align well with students' interests.

"It was clear to us in the interview process that he has an impressive breadth of knowledge when it comes to fiction and fiction writing, and so we felt like he would be a great candidate who could both help students understand the rich traditions of literary fiction, but also speak to the kinds of really contemporary subjects that they're interested in," Jerrell said.

Along with metafiction, Martinson said he also enjoys speculative fiction that draws from science fiction. He said the hallmark for this type of fiction seems to be that



Photo courtesy of College of Humanities and Fine Arts
T.J. Martinson started working this fall as a creative writing professor in the English department.

it examines real world issues by using science fiction. This lends a new perspective to common problems.

Martinson began teaching this fall. He is teaching Critical Reading, Writing and Inquiry; Introduction to Creative Writing and Introduction to Writing Fiction. In the spring, he will be teaching Critical Reading, Writing and Inquiry and Forms of Fiction.

Martinson brings a lot of energy and experience to the creative writing program, Jerrell said. She said a benefit Martinson brings is being a recently published author, which means he knows how the publishing industry works from a writer's perspective and can share that knowledge with students.

Martinson said what he likes the most is just getting to know his students, getting a sense of what they are passionate about and helping them achieve their goals.

Martinson hopes to impart to students the belief that it is possible to become a writer and to care about the effect of their writing on the culture and world around them, he said.

"I think creative writing can often be taught in a cultural vacuum... and [they] don't necessarily think about how it intersects with culture," Martinson said. "But to really break that mold and to think about what decisions [you are] making in your writing and how [you can] be accountable to those decisions."

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