The University of Michigan-Dearborn's Criminal Justice Department hosted its 11th annual Criminal Justice Exposition. The event, held on Oct. 29, featured 23 different criminal justice organizations that recruited students and provided information about the field.

Donald E. Shelton, Director of Criminal Justice Studies, spoke on why this event was so important for students. "Our event here today serves three purposes," Shelton said. "First, we're here to give our students an opportunity to be exposed to the various job opportunities that exist in law enforcement. Second, it gives the students an opportunity to present practicing themselves, as they will have to do someday. Third, most of the agencies here are actively recruiting, so they are looking for potential employees." Shelton has noticed that students' desires to join law enforcement are often influenced by the variety of action-packed crime television shows, like CBS' Crime Scene Investigation and Law & Order.

However, the events portrayed in these hit shows aren't always accurate. "I teach a class here in forensic science evidence, and my first job is to disabuse students of CSI," Shelton said. "Believe it or not, we really don't get DNA during a commercial. Criminal justice shows are about entertainment, but when you put a show on television, you leave out all of the boring and show all of the terror. A lot of people think they are being entertained and not being educated."

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The Michigan Journal is a proud member of the Associated College Press.

By JULIANNE SAAD
Staff Writer
On Oct. 29, University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Criminal Justice Department hosted the 11th annual Criminal Justice Exposition. 23 different criminal justice organizations held booths to recruit students and provide information about the field.

Some organizations present were the Michigan Department of Corrections, United States Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Victim Services Unit. Each organization provided students with fliers, pamphlets and representatives to speak with students personally and answer any questions they had. Students from both UM-Dearborn and Henry Ford College were invited.

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By JORDAN EWALD
Staff Writer

For many freshmen, the first year of college might cause them to feel nervous, unsure and definitely overwhelmed by the new people they are going to meet. When you are an athlete, it is all the same, if not even more intense.

For freshman Taylor Bejma, that was not the case. After graduating from Garden City High School in 2015, she decided to continue her education and volleyball career at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, following in the footsteps of her sister Brittany.

Having been around the program for a few years, Taylor was familiar with many of the women on the team. “I was more comfortable being here and with the [team]. I knew what I was coming to,” she said.

“I think it has helped Taylor’s transition and allowed her to be herself,” UM-Dearborn head coach Eric Stark said.

Prior to this season, Brittany, a fifth-year senior captain on the UM-Dearborn volleyball team, had the opportunity to help coach Taylor. Despite not being on the same team until college, the sport has always been something the two sisters have shared.

“My parents always pushed us to find something active to do. In the third grade a friend started

Bejma sisters

continued on page 7

Bejma sisters Brittany, left, and Taylor, right, never played on the same volleyball team until this year.
Documentarian Keith Beauchamp Leads Conversation on Race

October's Conversation on Race featured filmmaker Keith Beauchamp and his documentary the Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till.

By MUHAMMAD ALI MOZAHR
Guest Reporter

Documentary filmmaker Keith Beauchamp, director of The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till, led the Conversation on Race in Kochoff Hall on Oct 27.

Beauchamp began with the story of Emmett Till, a black 14-year-old who was brutally murdered after whistling at a white woman in 1950’s rural Mississippi.

Sixty years have passed since Till’s murder, but in many places, Beauchamp said, it is as if time stood still.

Beauchamp first learned about Till from the cover of a Jet magazine when he was 10-years-old.

At 18, Beauchamp was tided down and beaten by a undercover police officer for dancing with a white woman. This experience was an awakening for Beauchamp.

“Sometimes after that, I wanted to visit the Delta (where Till was murdered),” Beauchamp said. “I had to see it.”

Beauchamp spent the next nine years visiting the Delta, and interviewing those who knew Till.

After nine years of working on “The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till,” the documentary was released. Beauchamp described the difficulties he faced.

“The same elders who complained that my generation wasn’t doing anything weren’t willing to help fund my project,” Beauchamp said. “My parents and I paid for the project. It took many years for the people in my community to gain my trust; they knew that those who were responsible are still around.

The documentary was a success. It was well-received by critics, and drew enough attention to Emmett Till’s case to get the FBI to re-open it. By 2017, with the help of Whoopi Goldberg and others, Beauchamp plans to release a new version of the Till story.

Beauchamp compared America to a clock, with each gear representing a race.

“If all gears turn in unison, the clock will work. The gears aren’t turning right now.”

He noted that Obama’s election isn’t indicative of a “post-racial” society and that racism was far from over. In fact, Beauchamp noted that racism will never go away.

Beauchamp spoke of his experiences visiting sundown towns –places where people of color are not welcome after sundown. Beauchamp noted the lack of racial integration. He said white children were shocked by the presence of a black man. People refused to shake his hand.

“The experience caused a physical pain,” Beauchamp said.

When the discussion was opened up to the audience, a young black male expressed his frustrations.

“I feel like a target,” he said. “It doesn’t matter how I dress, how I cut my hair, how I speak, or carry myself.

A black woman criticized Beauchamp’s clock analogy.

“The gears have never turned in unison. The experience caused a physical pain,” Beauchamp said.

The audience: “How many of your audience members were in the till story.”

Beauchamp said that although racism may not be vocal or socially acceptable today, it is very much alive -- but in a more private sense.

“I’m the only person of color at my workplace,” he said. “And I can feel some racist vibes. At the parties where my coworkers drink, their true thoughts come out.

“We are like sponges, we learn whatever we are taught, and racism is a learned behavior.”

The conversation continued to bounce back and forth between Beauchamp and audience members.

A black male remarked that he had never witnessed racism in the open until he visited the south where he was amazed that his relatives were used to it.

A latino male made the final statement. He said that although racism may not be vocal or socially acceptable today, it is very much alive.

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Peeps & Posts
UM-D Social & Tech
@UMDRBNProblems

Have you ever had someone pay you for a parking spot, on campus? Have you ever had Canvas go down when you are in the last paragraph of an essay that’s due by midnight?

Well if you’ve encountered any of these, then you might have had a UM-D problem. Student gripes like these and many more can be found at the Twitter handle @UMDRBNProblems.

Next time you see something and think “only at Dearborn,” tweet it and let other students know. They sometimes break news even before the official school accounts.

“Peeps & Posts” is a column that highlights social and technological aspects of UM-Dearborn.

Just like in name suggests, the student-run account tweets out everyday complaints of the student body.

They sometimes break news even before the official school accounts.

By JULIA WELLS
Staff Columnist

Peeps & Posts
UM-D Social & Tech
@UMDRBNProblems

By MARIAN KANNO
Staff Reporter

Within the crowd of students walking to class every day, there are those who suffer. From poverty to violence to feelings of discrimination, these issues lead students to call for a helping hand. The CIViC (Community Involvement and Volunteerism Center) is a space that helps students get connected with their communities. It’s main purpose is to give them volunteer opportunities that involve them in solving crucial domestic and global issues.

“The major issue in Detroit is hunger,” said Melissa Booth, coordinator for Civic Engagement. “It’s over 20 percent of people in Wayne County who are food insecure, which means that they don’t have or make enough money every month to sustain a healthy, balanced diet. So hunger and poverty are two of the main social justice issues that we’re trying to address.

Through the CIViC’s direct service, volunteers are able to battle certain issues in Detroit and its surrounding area. Some of these projects include helping at the长春妈妈 Soup Kitchen this December as well as a collaboration with Glenner’s Food Bank in Detroit, which will take place in November.

The A-Okay Day of Service, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, and Make a Difference Day of Service are other direct service programs hosted by the CIViC.

In addition to engaging in events within the metro Detroit area, the CIViC offers volunteers an opportunity to battle major social, economic and environmental issues in different areas within the United States and other countries.

Alternative Spring Break is a program that facilitates activities, learning, leadership, social bonding and a desire to make a change.

Two of the 2016 Alternative Spring Break Trips, Carolina Island (CA) and San Juan (Puerto Rico), address environmental issues. Volunteers will have the opportunity to work together on replanting and cleaning out brush.

Other trips tackle urban poverty, rural poverty, youth development and food insecurity in Cleveland (OH), Mauine (MI), Saint Louis (MO) and Sharpsburg (GA) respectively.

Through the food pantry, students donate money, non-perishable food, toilet items and cleaning supplies to those going through economic difficulty.

Since its establishment in 2013, the food pantry has raised 3,500 pounds of food and toilet items, in addition to a total amount of $3,000 through donations.

Latonya Austin, a 39-year-old behavioral science student at UM-Dearborn, lost her job last year. In a crucial need to feed her family, Austin utilized The CIViC’s Student Food Pantry program.

“This past year, my financial and emotional status were both at zero,” Austin said. “I had lost my job, my home and my spirit. The confidentiality of the pantry was wonderful, although I was quite embarrassed to have to carry those bags, but it was necessary to feed my family. I value the help and the love I felt receiving it.”

The CIViC collaborates with many student organizations on campus and hosts several of their events. An estimated 8,000-5,000 students volunteer every year through events hosted by the CIViC. Students sign up through CIViC. Students sign up through CIViC.

Cofounder of the Social Justice League and a director of outreach for She’s the First, Fiana Arbab is an incredibly active student leader.

“I just wanted more and more,” Arbab said. “All you have to do is take that step forward and do those things with them.”

Arbab has volunteered for several events hosted by The CIViC, such as the Muslim Student Association’s Hijabah Monologues, the annual Fast-a-thon, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. She thinks that civic engagement changes people’s perspectives about different ideas and religions.

She said the CIViC helps ameliorate stereotypes. For example, MSA’s annual Fast-a-thon gives non-Muslim students the opportunity to fast with Muslim students for one day, giving them a sense of understanding towards a religion that is not their own.

“The CIViC is a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful place for everyone,” Arbab said. “You’re not doing it for yourself, you’re doing it for all the students. People should go check it out.”
The most impactful memories at this school started in 2012. I had just broken off my friendship with Stephanie, my boyfriend of almost ten years when she began attaching herself to her boyfriend. I spent the first few months in my comfortable home alone, alienated from the friends I once associated with. I felt a lot of time alone, and focusing primarily on school. I felt alone, abandoned, and misunderstood. Eventually, I ventured into the world of student organizations and jumped into the anthropology club (the Association of Student Anthropologists), opening me up to world of fascinating speakers and diverse topics.

In 2013, I began part time at Baker College, where I felt a kinship with these unique organizations, a sense of belonging and comfort. I found myself previously with my Sicilian/Jewish family, who forced me to look outside the box no matter how stubborn or difficult I acted. Even when I fell in love with a dear friend and drove my friends crazy with our turbulent friendship, Beauchamp spoke about the tragedy of Emmett Till and his perspective on it. He told me that the pain for Till’s family was more than just a loss of a loved one. He made me realize that what Till was at home at; when they were about to be transferred back to the states, Beauchamp mentioned that the first step in solving any problem, to confront it about it to prevent it from happening to any other human being. Beauchamp spoke about the tragedy of Emmett Till and his perspective on it. He told me that the pain for Till’s family was more than just a loss of a loved one. He made me realize that what Till was at home at; when they were about to be transferred back to the states, Beauchamp mentioned that the first step in solving any problem, to confront it about it to prevent it from happening to any other human being. Beauchamp spoke about the tragedy of Emmett Till and his perspective on it. He told me that the pain for Till’s family was more than just a loss of a loved one. He made me realize that what Till was at home at; when they were about to be transferred back to the states, Beauchamp said. He then told me that the first step in solving any problem, to confront it about it to prevent it from happening to any other human being.

My experience at this event was a very positive one. I went into it expecting to be a good discussion, but walked out feeling like I was in the presence of a very powerful and passionate speaker. The fact that he mentioned his own personal experiences and thoughts that he truly cares about injustice. I felt very motivated to become involved as an activist myself and hopefully express my thoughts and beliefs to make a change in my community, and eventually the world.

I was an alien, and when he walked into a library, the librarian would not talk to me about that. The moment I opened the door, I was greeted by a young woman who was not only beautiful, but also very kind. I smiled at her and at that moment, I knew that Beauchamp was a very thoughtful and very intelligent man. I think that the first step in solving any problem, to confront it about it to prevent it from happening to any other human being. Beauchamp spoke about the tragedy of Emmett Till and his perspective on it. He told me that the pain for Till’s family was more than just a loss of a loved one.
Bikers Take to Detroit Streets for Halloween Extravaganza

By AMBER AINSWORTH
A&E Editor
I love Detroit. Since I was young, I have heard horror stories about how dangerous and tame the city is; I was told it is a lost cause. I was advised to avoid visiting at all costs, so as soon as I could drive, I headed to Detroit. Last week, I decided I would visit Detroit to participate in Slow Roll.

From spring until fall, Slow Roll Detroit draws crowds from all over Michigan and Canada into Detroit to experience the city in a way like no other. For cyclists of all ages and levels of experience, Mondays provide a night of community and exercise. Since its start five years ago, Slow Roll has rapidly expanded outside of just a cruise around the city to a mob of riders taking to the streets, with new bikers constantly joining. In fact, Slow Roll has expanded outside of its hometown, with rides that take place in multiple other major cities, including Buffalo and Cleveland. On Monday, Oct. 26, over 3,000 bikers gathered at the Fillmore to pedal over seven miles during the Mouth- of-the-year Halloween ride. For a first-timer at the event, it was a memorable and truly amazing experience. As I rolled through the city, clad in a pigeon suit, it felt as if I were in the middle of a giant family. While many in attendance are regulars and truly know each other, everyone was welcomed and embraced by the group. The night was added as a chance for me to see the city from an angle that simply cannot be experienced by just riding a bike or even a bike ride alone.

For the city of Detroit, an event like Slow Roll is essential. I have been to Detroit during concerts and sporting events, but I have never seen so many people filling the streets at one time. Especially with Detroit pushing for revival, a huge group of people experiencing the city in such a positive way is a perfect example of the city’s potential.

Slow Roll brings together not only those on bikes, but also an audience and the police in the city. Riding while being cheered on by officers who seemed thrilled to be part of the event was refreshing and exciting. Slow Roll has only added to the love I feel for the city. While other events bring pressure and stress, this was a night, Slow Roll brings together a family week after week. There’s no fear while riding through a city that often makes people anxious. Even at its slow pace seems like an easy seven miles at a relatively steady pace. I think being a desk jockey, I needed it.

The busiest portion of the event was the Dealer’s Con convention was the Dealer’s Con convention. The event is hosted every year by the Wicked Witch of the West. When I heard that Amber Ainsworth was going to Detroit to experience Halloween Slow Roll, I knew I had to miss out, but had always wanted to join in on the lei-surely bike ride I’d heard about, and getting the opportunity to do so in costume was just one more desire. Clowning around in a polka dot dress, rainbow striped stockings, and a borderline creepy face paint, I was ready to ride with my group. The night was a fun one. Not only was the dedication to the holiday a treat, but so were the decorative elements the riders brought.

For this ride, I was dressed from head to toe as Raphael, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. I was equipped and optimistic for the first few miles. It was not until we approached the Mouth of the Year—Ernest-sized hill that I thought to myself, “How on earth do people do this every single week?” Aside from the incredible number of people who participated in the theme by dressing up, a surprising amount of “seriously” dressed were strictly there for the exercise in their tight compression shorts and neon Nikes.

Every so often these intense athletes zoomed by, almost as a way to show off and completely defeat the slow pace of a roll slow. The fact that these riders gather every week and exceedingly high level of physical ability. Unfortunately for me, this ride was not as effortless. With a burning sensation in my knees, cramps in both calves and an embarrassing general fatigue, I was clearly not as prepared as I thought I was. The feeling was tough on me, but I decided to blame my athletic choice for not only my general fatigue, I was clearly not as prepared as I thought I was. The feeling was tough on me, but I decided to blame my athletic choice for being a desk jockey, I needed it.

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By JENNA WOJ
For Detroit, the last days of October aren’t just reserved for Halloween, but something a little more special. Hundreds of anime fans and cosplayers streamed Detroit’s riverfront on the last weekend of October for YoumaCon, the largest anime and gaming convention in Michigan, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Renaissance Center and COBO Hall hosting the event.

The convention, which runs Oct. 26-28, featured over 200booths, many unique panels, cosplay and gaming contests and a variety of special guests that ranged from comic book artists such as Tia Ballard, Chuck Huber, and Crash 40. The best moment of the convention was the Dealer’s Con, where cosplayers and civilians did their shopping. One side of the den had various items for sale from Nintendo’s brand of gaming devices. In the main event room, there was a panel that discussed a certain anime or one that interested the attendees. The course ran from arcade to computer to console. You could also just pump-up jams could always impress with a certain anime or one that interested the attendees. The course ran from arcade to computer to console. You could also just

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By JULIANNE SAAD

On Oct. 31, behind the University Center, the UM-D Wishmakers hosted the first annual Wolverines on the Run 5K, a Halloween edition. Registration was open to students and their family, faculty members and members of the local community. Runners were encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes.

Seeking inclusion, the Wishmakers extended an open invitation to a multitude of campus organizations. Their goal was to raise money to donate to the Make-A-Wish foundation. Dalia Salloum, the organization’s event co-planner, spoke about their goal with putting on the run. "Our goal is to gain attention. We haven’t been known on campus and people didn’t really know who we were. The second goal is to raise money that we can donate to Make-A-Wish," Salloum said. "We also wanted to do something healthy, so we decided a run would be a great idea." Matt Wilson, the organization’s president also spoke about the purpose for the run. "This is the first annual, so our goal for the year was primarily to let everyone know who we are," Wilson said. "We’re a new org on campus, and we want everyone to know that we do a lot of great things." Shelton pointed out a positive effect that these crime shows have on the current generation of students. "Young people have watched these programs and they’ve developed an interest in criminal justice that wasn’t there before," Shelton said.

Shelton is focusing his energy on how to make UM-Dearborn’s criminal justice program even better. "This is my second year at the university. I came here after 25 years on the bench with the hope or encouragement all going to All Worthy of Love, a nonprofit based in metro Detroit with the charge of helping those enslaved by street prostitution. Jessica Bachelor, marketing and outreach coordinator for Amnesty International, chose to work with All Worthy of Love because of their dedication to helping victims of human trafficking in any way that they can. "They actually have an outreach team full of volunteers where they go out and make connections with people on the street or the people in the trafficking rings," Bachelor said. "So they have a support system; they have someone to go to. They work on forming bonds and relationships." Bachelor said that promoting awareness is key in the fight against human trafficking.

"Nobody knows about these things until you really put them in your face, or just raise awareness towards it, so that’s what I’m all about. So many people are so used to turning a blind eye, and I’m trying to fight that." Donations made to All Worthy of Love will go towards making what the organization calls “hygiene kits,” which consist of personal care products such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorant, and “meal kits” which include “totes of encouragement.” "They’re just little things like ‘you can do it’ or ‘God is with you’ because they are a Christian based organization," Bachelor said. "It’s really sweet because these people who come out of trafficking say they’ve had these notes for so long and that it gave them hope when nothing else did.”

For more information on All Worthy of Love, log on to http://allworthyoflove.org

By JULIANNE SAAD

On Oct. 27, Amnesty International held an event on campus organizations. Their goal was to raise awareness for their organization but also to raise money to donate to the Make-A-Wish foundation. Gregory J. Osowski, director of the Criminal Justice Program at Henry Ford College, agreed with Shelton.

"I spent 25 years working in Detroit with the charge of helping those enslaved by street prostitution," Osowski said. "I came here after 25 years on the bench with the hope or encouragement all going to All Worthy of Love because of their dedication to helping victims of human trafficking in any way that they can. "They actually have an outreach team full of volunteers where they go out and make connections with people on the street or the people in the trafficking rings," Bachelor said. "So they have a support system; they have someone to go to. They work on forming bonds and relationships." Bachelor said that promoting awareness is key in the fight against human trafficking.

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We really want to engage the campus and make a difference at the same time. It’s really great to see all of these people come out and support something that I’m so passionate about." Salloum went into detail about why the Wishmakers strive to make a difference. "All of us have had some sort of affiliation with cancer," Salloum said. "We’ve had the chance to come together and console each other. It’s a family, and I love being with them. We come together in the hopes of at least granting one wish to a child, which does cost around $5,000. A kid’s job is not to be sick, or to worry about their illness. It’s their job to worry about how much video games they get to play that day or when their bedtime is. We want to help kids see what they can do in life.”

Salloum’s family has been affected by cancer, making her connection to the Wishmakers even more personal. For more information about the UM-D Wishmakers, contact president Matt Wilson at mwills@umich.edu.

Wishmakers Race to Donate to Make-A-Wish with 5K

"I was already part of the family before, but once I found out about my family being directly affected, I became more passionate," Salloum said. "I was already passionate about helping children, but that just made me want to do everything I can and more." For more information about the UM-D Wishmakers, contact president Matt Wilson at mwills@umich.edu.

"I came to look around at the jobs I’m eligible for now, or what jobs I will be eligible for in the future," Davis said. "My professor actually urged us to come to the event, and I’m thankful because I’ve gotten a lot of information and a lot of pamphlets. There’s stuff that I never thought I would be interested in, that I’m interested in now, so it opened up my eyes a bit. It was really useful because there’s so many careers you can go into within criminal justice and there was so much information provided on each of the different pathways you can go down."
From competing in the Disney Cross Country Classic to attending camp together over the summer, the men and women's cross country teams at the University of Michigan-Dearborn have a lot of memory-making moments that they'll hold forever sacred.

Not only do the teams have meets, summer camps and practices to remember from this season, they have the friendships they've made that will last a lifetime.

Sophomore Ryan Pickell is already excited for next season to begin to make new memories.

“I look forward to seeing the team again next year, including meeting the new recruits,” Pickell said. “We have a few opportunities in the off-season where we can meet together, but it's really great being able to see everyone on a daily basis during the season. They’re honestly an amazing group to be around.”

The two teams spend a lot of time together. They do everything from practicing together, traveling together and competing together.

“They’re one big family.”

The men and women have both competed in five different meets this season and have done well in each one. They have their last one coming on Nov. 7 in Grand Rapids, where they’ll compete in the WHAC Championship.

Senior captain Megan McDonald will be running in her last collegiate meet on Saturday.

“ definitively a proud captain and believes the team accomplished more than just the individual aspect of cross country. They’ve accomplished exactly what it’s like to be a team.”

“I've been breaking out of your comfort zone a lot better than I ever thought you could, struggling with not doing as well as you wanted to, being closer and feeling more on the team or just maturing as an individual, this team has accomplished this year and our outlook for next year is very promising.”

McDonald is one of the down-to-earth individuals I’ve ever met. She represents everything the team is all about.”

“She attends school full-time, runs cross country, is a member of Phi Mu, Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, Tau Sigma Honors Society, Order of Omega Society, Student Government, Advisory Committee, Honor Transfers Innovators, and the Mic Club all while holding a 3.79 GPA. She will definitely be missed by the team because of her strong leadership skills and her ability to push her teammates to be the best they can be.”

“Running at the ‘Happiest Place on Earth’ is memorable, both Pickell and McDonald will cherish for a very long time.”

“The most memorable part of the season was definitely racing in the Disney Cross Country Classic in Florida and spending the weekend with the team.”

“Bejmas Sisters, Cont. from page 1

“Looking ahead, the team feels good, but for different reasons. They do everything from practicing together, traveling together and competing together.

“Senior captain Megan McDonald will be running in her last collegiate meet on Saturday.”

““The most memorable part of the season was definitively the Disney try.”

“Megan McDonald agreed. “It was so much fun. The bond bonded a lot and we all raced very well.”

“The cross country team exemplifies exactly what it’s like to be a team. They’ve persevered through the hard times, focused on what they can do to better each other and have matured individually, as well as having fun. As the saying goes, “We didn’t realize we were making memories, just knew we were having fun.”

Conversely, Taylor’s unique view of the way things are has always been a source of comfort and aspiration for Brit-

“Now on the same team, their relationship has grown even stronger.”

“Besides sharing a last name, for a love for volleyball and att-

“With a week left, the memorable season will soon come to an end. Taylor will continue playing, but for Brit-

“Taylor being on the team helped me to remember what it was like being a freshman and thankful for all the time I had to play,” said Taylor.

Looking ahead, the team will host Concordia University on Nov. 4 before they head to Indianapolis University on Nov. 7 for a WHAC Crossover to complete the 2015 season.

“Playing with my sister my last year was an incredible experience. I’m sad that it’s over but I am so thankful for the opportunities this program has provided me with over the years,” said Taylor.

The women’s cross country team celebrates after their last meet of the season.
Losing four seniors on any team can prove to be a difficult task to handle. As for University of Michigan-Dearborn men's basketball head coach Taylor Langley, the focus was entirely optimistic, especially with seven of the 12 players on the roster being freshman.

“We really have to develop our basketball IQs, especially with only having two guys on the roster who are seniors this year,” said Langley, regarding having a slightly inexperienced group of guys on the court.

The Wolverines have unfortunately been the recipients of losing seasons in recent history, but that hasn't stopped this group from staying focused on turning those losing ways around.

This, of course, will start with the handful of upperclassmen that remain on the roster.

Anthony Barley, a 5-foot-11 guard, and Paul Standtke, a 6-foot-5 forward, return to take the reigns as seniors this year for the Wolverines. Even though the roster may lack a defensive presence from first impressions, Standtke is not a forward to ignore when it comes to rebounds.

“Paul is one of, if not the best, rebounders on the team,” Langley said.

The Wolverines were tied for seventh in the preseason Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference standings. Three conference opponents were ranked in the NAIA preseason Top 25: No. 1 and defending national champion Cornerstone, No. 3 Davenport and No. 17 Northwestern Ohio. They'll play NCAA Division I University of Detroit in mid-November.

Langley strongly believes after multiple practices this season that his team is underrated offensively.

“We have to play both sides of the ball, but the amount of shooters we have on the team is really good,” said Langley. Sophomore forward Jason Penn returns for the Wolverines averaging more than 10 points per game and, according to Langley, is definitely one of the most talented offensive players to watch, along with junior Marcus Williams, a 6-foot-7 guard and forward.

“Marcus is an incredible talent. He’s one of the best shooters on the team and he has incredible potential with his height,” Langley said, lauding the junior who was plagued by injuries last year.

Although expectations might be low for the inexperienced squad, the Wolverines should be able to surprise a few teams with their shooting abilities and consistent defensive rebounding efforts, which has been the focus in practice recently.

“Defensive rebounding has been one of the main things we focus on in practice, along with the offensive side of the ball,” said Langley. With seven guys 6-foot-4 or higher, the Wolverines should be able to dominate the boards.

Leadership, of course, will be an issue with the number of freshmen on the team all looking to prove themselves at once.

“There aren't any distinct leaders on the team yet,” said Langley. “They're all going to have to prove in their actions and words, but it all starts with the seniors, Anthony and Paul.”

The Wolverines open the season on the road at Great Lakes Christian College on Nov. 4, but then return home for the opener four days later against Roosevelt University.

Men’s Hoops Opens Season Wednesday

By JOSH YOUNG
Staff Writer

Paul Standtke is one of two seniors on the UM-Dearborn men’s basketball team.