

Our year was one of transition and change. Having just completed a vitality study, Manchester University is on a path toward a more sustainable and vital future built on a strong mission and inspiring history that points the way forward in a rapidly changing, and often challenging, environment.

Among awards and achievements last year Manchester University was named one of the 15 best Midwest regional colleges by College Consensus, number 8 of Midwest's top 10 "Great Schools, Great Prices" by the U.S. News & World Report, and one of the "Best in the Midwest" by the Princeton Review. The Pharmacy Program was the first in the nation to receive an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy award that honors commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

During Homecoming, the North Manchester campus celebrated the opening of the Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center. The center houses the Office of Multicultural Affairs and is a home away from home for international students. The Lockie and Augustus Chinworth Center on the north side of the Jo Young Switzer Center will be completed this summer. It will be home to the Arthur L. Gilbert College of Business and a number of student-focused services.

New ventures in academics include the hiring of a new Vice President for Health Science Initiatives, Lea A. Johnson. Johnson will plan, develop and launch a nursing program and other health science programs; a new global health major and master's degree in accounting; and Discussion Day, a biennial event that brings the University community together to engage in a deep and immersive examination of an issue with significant relevance to students, faculty and staff. This year's topic, "Race in America: A Unfinished Project?" featured keynote speaker Lisa Givan, the associate vice president of diversity and inclusion at Indiana Institute of Technology.

In religious life and church relations: weekly chapel services continue; Simply Brethren students enjoy spending time with Timbercrest residents, volunteering at the Camp Mack Festival, fellowshiping with alumni and planning Love Feast; The ROBOT worship travel team continues to offer worship services to Church of the Brethren congregations in the spring semester; and the Powerhouse Regional Youth Conference, held at Camp Mack every November, brought 35 youth and advisors. Powerhouse included messages from David and Maria Huber, Jed Freels and Jeanne Davies on the theme "Living Stories: Connecting our lives with the parables of Jesus," taking inspiration from the 2018 Annual Conference theme, "Living Parables." Please encourage senior high youth to join us on Nov. 16-17 for Powerhouse 2019!

The Peace Studies Institute and Program in Conflict Resolution celebrated 70 years this year. We hosted a student and alumni trip to Montgomery, Alabama. Faculty in peace studies collaborated with the local Rotary Club to present the World Affairs Conference that attracted hundreds of high school students, teachers and administrators from six area schools to participate in deep discussions about peace and conflict transformation. Peace Week highlighted "Peacemaking through Storytelling," with events such as story sharing with Bob and Rachel Gross, intergenerational storytelling at Timbercrest, and sessions on conflict resolution. The Campus Interfaith Board in partnership with the office of religious life ended Peace Week with the third annual Empty Bowls lunch to help fight hunger in our world. This year we supported the Manchester Fellowship of Churches Food Pantry.

We are ever mindful of your generous support in both prayer and financial resources. Our mission continues, graduating students of ability and conviction who draw upon their education and faith to lead principled, productive, and compassionate lives that improve the human condition, and is made stronger with your partnership.