

Where Did They Come From

By Ryan Rerich
MBU Timeline Sports Editor

The Missouri Baptist golf team is comprised of young men ready to win an American Midwest Conference title. The 2013 spring team possesses golfers from many different backgrounds and geographic locations. As with any collegiate sport, the way that the men and women get to where they are at in their careers is always interesting. This remains true in the sense of Missouri Baptist athletics, and men's golf. Jack Jackson, 23, is a senior with experience in every limb of his body. "I'm from Bridgnorth, England, and went Oldbury Wells High School. I am receiving a Psych degree at MBU and look to go further with my golf career," Jackson said. The team looks to Jackson for leadership down the stretch, along with the other lone senior Ben Werner. "I was born in the state of Texas in the town Fort Worth. I lived there until I was two, then my family moved to Abilene. After two more years we travelled to St. Louis, then in 4th grade to Bedford, Mi., a little town in the southeastern part of the state," Werner said. For the last move the Werner family came back to St. Louis, where Ben graduated from Valley Park high school and decided to attend MBU. "Dr. Chambers is my uncle and that is how I know the school," Werner said. Jackson and Werner make a good base for the team, and their leadership is needed for a successful season. Transfers Billy Marquart and Jared Paddick have added to the strength of the roster. "I went to Rend Lake Community College and lived in Mt. Carmel, Ind. for all 21 years of my life. I look to better my golf career with the two years that I have left here," Paddick said. Billy Marquart, 20, graduated from high school from St. Francis Borgia in Washington, Mo., and then attended the University of Central Missouri. "I left the University of Central Missouri



Photo By: Justin Hoagland

The team gathers for a group photo in a practice round in September. From Left: Jan Jordaan, Ryan Rerich, Sam Mauer, Jared Paddick, Billy Maquette.

because I wanted to play golf again, so I looked at schools closer to home, Marquart said." Missouri Baptist University seems to be a good fit for Marquart as he looks to impact the team in for the upcoming season. Sophomore, Dave Long, has a bright future ahead of him filled with a successful past. "I am a northern Indiana resident, here for a degree in Communications, and using golf to help pay the way," Long said. Long comes from a golfing background with his dad being a teaching professional and owning a golf course in Indiana. Long makes golf look easy from time to time, and some things just come natural to the talented individual on the golf course. To round out the golf team, three freshmen have jumped on board the ship hopefully to set sail to greatness. Jan-Henry Jordaan, Sam Mauer, and Ryan Rerich have arrived in the city under the arch from a myriad of places, near and far. This talented young man has come from the village of De Doorns, South Africa, along the Western Cape. "Coming from a town with only 300 kids in the whole school, I went to a high school where there were three times as many people as in the middle school. There I honed my sporting skills which included cricket, tennis, and most importantly golf," Jordaan said. "I look forward to playing different courses and improving my game as I progress in the next four years. Not only do I want to win the AMC, but also develop as a person becoming a well-rounded individual in all walks in life," Jordaan also said. Mauer comes from a place much nearer than Jordaan, that being Eureka, Mo.. "I lived in Eureka my whole

life and I went to Eureka high school. It was such a big school that I had to specialize in one sport, so I chose golf," Mauer said. This decision proved to be a smart one, and Mauer looks to be a strong golfer in the upcoming seasons. Escaping the southern humidity and heat, Rerich made his way from south Texas to St. Louis.

Rerich grew up in Weimar, Texas, a town with 2,000 people, and a high school with 197 students in all. He has lived there all his life and grew up on a small nine-hole golf course, while playing numerous sports in his high school as well. "If you would have asked me freshman year of high school which sport I would be playing, I definitely would not have said golf. Interesting things can happen though, and I know I am here for a reason," Rerich said. Jordaan pointed out a selection from 1 Corinthians 1:27; "For God selected what in the world is foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame." This is a verse that serves as reasoning for each and every person that travels throughout their unknown lives, as they make their ways impacting individuals and effecting things they never knew that they had the power to do.



Photo By: Ryan Rerich

Missouri Baptist Golf Takes Conference

Unthinkable events can occur when a team full of the drive and want to succeed puts together a final push for a conference championship. Led by Englishman Jack Jackson, a senior from Missouri Baptist University, and sophomore, David Long from Middlebury, Ind., the Freshman Three of Missouri Baptist consisting of Ryan Rerich from Weimar, Texas, Jan-Henry Jordaan from De Doorns, South Africa, and Sam Mauer from Eureka Mo., could not disappoint. These five golfers went out on April 29th and April 30th and defied the odds of beating the defending champion of the conference for several years in a row. The Missouri Baptist University golf team captured the American Midwest Conference title and overcame their conference rivals.

William Woods University was a tough team to take down, but after a team score of 2-under-par 286, the team held a strong eight stroke lead after 18 holes.

The next 18 holes were played immediately after the first 18, to round out the first day of 36-holes of competition. MBU held up the lead and took a four stroke lead into the final day. After a bumpy first nine holes the second day of competition, the team bounced back and recorded an unheard of 9-under-par on the last nine holes as a team, led by Long's 5-under-par 31. The MBU golf team took the eight stroke victory with honor and will make their way to Salem, Ore., May 12th for a four day, 72-hole competition, against the best NAIA schools in the nation. The team will kick off play at 7 a.m. at Creekside Golf Club on May 13th, paired with Texas Wesleyan, ranked number one in the nation, and Wayland Baptist (Texas), ranked 11th in the nation.

The team may play the underdog role, but they

will not be unused to this situation. After all, they took down William Woods University after being ranked 88th when their respective opponent was 15th.

Missouri Baptist golf is ready to get to the top of the leaderboard, and bring home a National Championship to St. Louis.

Golf Takes 25th Place at Nationals

1. Oklahoma City
2. Texas Wesleyan
3. California State-San Marcos
4. Johnson & Wales (Fla.)
5. Grand View University
6. Our Lady of the Lake
7. Faulkner University
8. Cumberlands
9. U of The Bellevue University
10. Lee (Tenn.)
11. Saint Thomas University (Texas)
12. Northwood (Texas)
13. British Columbia
14. Milligan (Tenn.)
15. Southeastern University
16. Wayland Baptist (Texas)
17. Northwestern (Iowa)
18. Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)
19. Lewis-Clark St. (Ind.)
20. Southwestern (Kan.)
21. Marian University (Ind.)
22. Point Park U.
23. Davenport
24. Corban University
25. Missouri Baptist University
26. University of Saint Francis (Ill.)
27. Central Methodist
28. Blue Mountain College



Photo By: Justin Hoagland

Ryan Rerich hits an iron off the tee on the 9th hole at THE CLUB AT Porto Cima en route to an above par, 78.

Come and Go

All of these young men Travel Back and forth from St. Louis

- Jack Jackson ● Bridgnorth, England
- Ben Werner ● St. Louis
- Jared Paddick ● Mt. Carmel, Ind.
- Billy Marquart ● Washington, Mo.
- Dave Long ● Goshen, Ind.
- Ryan Rerich ● Weimar, Tx.
- Jan-Henry Jordaan ● De Doorns, S. Africa
- Sam Mauer ● Eureka, Mo.

JOHN ODFEN



The Spartan basketball team added a notable acquisition this past season. John Oden's journey from pro athlete on one side of the Atlantic Ocean to volunteer coach on the other makes for quite a memorable experience. Once among the most highly recruited high school basketball players in the nation, Oden has traveled a good portion of the world playing professional basketball, and now he has returned home to finish what he started — college.

After traveling around the world playing professional basketball, Johnathan Oden has landed in St. Louis at Missouri Baptist University to finish what he started over 14 years ago.

What he did in those 14 years between high school graduation and re-enrollment in college makes for a memorable time and the dream of a lifetime completely lived out — playing pro basketball from Israel to France, and all points in between.

Oden was born on Aug. 3, 1980, and remained in St. Louis until his sophomore year of high school at Cardinal Ritter, then moved to Phoenix to finish at Carl Haven High School.

Two Sports in Life

Oden was not a conventional one-sport athlete who succeeded only in basketball as a kid growing up in St. Louis. He played basketball and football until he felt that it was time to focus on what he truly loved.

“From 10 up to my freshman year, I was a two-sport guy: mainly football and basketball. But after my freshman year of high school, I hit a growth spurt and just got too tall. I was always in love with basketball, so I kind of felt like I had to give football up,” said Oden.

He proved to make the right choice and paved the way to future successes in the sport that he had always held so close to his heart. Oden finished his remaining two years of high school in Phoenix, and according to the 1999 final survey on RSCI Hoops, the Recruiting Service Consensus Index rated



Photo By: Ryan Rerich

Oden speaks to Buzzell giving the freshman a few tips on what to do when he is back in the game.

Oden No. 78 on the top 100 high school players in the nation. The individuals who managed the recruiting service had notable players on that same list, such as Joe Johnson, Jason Williams, Jason Richardson, Matt Bonner, Samuel Dalembert, Keith Bogans, and Donnell Harvey, who Oden actually played with overseas.

Oden, in fact, was 21 spots ahead on the list of a fairly elite and former NBA guard known for his years with the Washington Wizards, Gilbert Arenas.

“After high school I had multiple offers, pretty much every school in the country beside North Carolina and Duke. Every school in the country wanted me. I took a total of

five visits. I took a visit to Arizona, UCLA, UMass, Xavier and DePaul,” Oden said.

Final Collegiate Decision

On a questionable selection that Oden still looks back on today, the young man chose the school in Chicago.

“I ended up choosing DePaul. A lot of people ask me and, looking back on it, it probably was not the best choice for me. You know I wasn’t really from Phoenix, Ariz., so I was kind of homesick after a while and I wanted to move closer to St. Louis, but I didn’t want to go to St. Louis, so DePaul was the closest school that I wanted to go to. I just fell in

love with Chicago and that is why I chose it,” Oden said.

But Oden would not complete his four years with the DePaul Blue Demons, transferring after three years to the University of Southern Indiana, a Division II school where he played his final year.

While Oden spares the details, he said the reasons were similar to those of many young big-time college basketball players who downsize to smaller schools.

“I was a little immature back then, making some bad decisions. It was in the best interest to finish my last year at a different school,” Oden said.

The transition from a college mindset to a professional mentality began creeping its way into the head of the college standout. “After a good year at Southern Indiana, I got myself an agent. I had multiple offers to go overseas and play for different countries,” Oden said.

Initial Pro Thoughts

Oden had his one shot into the National Basketball Association before making the choice to leave the country.

“When I got out of college, I actually got invited to the Indiana Pacers summer camp. I ended up staying there all the way down until the last two cuts from making the team. But with contract situations, I did not stick around,” Oden said.

The whole process of getting that first job playing professional basketball was now becoming more difficult for the young American. Oden had left before finishing at Southern Indiana University in hopes that his career would yield income and prosperity.

Oden quickly recovered and his



Photo By: Ryan Rerich

Oden takes a drink of water before tip-off and in between speaking to various players before they step on the playing floor.

agent’s work paid off. Oden was now on a plane overseas to a different part of the world, completely foreign to him.

“My first job was in Israel, Tel Aviv. My agent sent some film out there from college and he had a lot of connections. They saw me and they wanted me. That was my first job,” Oden said. “I was terrified when I first went there. I did not know the language, you see things on CNN. I was a little nervous.” Oden had to start somewhere, obviously, and this was a great place to start.

“I played in the first division Israel. We weren’t very good that year. ... We had all Americans on the team and it was their first job,” Oden said.

Everything seemed to pan out for Oden after that initial year, and he enjoyed a life of a professional athlete in a myriad of countries.

“I played a total of about eight and a half years professionally overseas. I played in multiple countries. I played in France, Germany, Israel, Poland and Greece,” Oden said. “I

played in the Middle East in Kuwait and Lebanon. I played in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. So I’ve been around. I only played with the same team once for two years.”

One may wonder how that all worked out, but Oden received short contracts.

“It depends how you sign your contracts,” Oden said. “Some guys sign one-year contracts, some people give you two or three years. I mostly only got one-year contracts.”

Oden enjoyed his time overseas, especially since he was a starter and played some heavy minutes for multiple teams.

“I played power-forward. I was a starter. That is one thing about when you are an American over there, they are looking for you to be the man, so you are going to get most of the minutes,” Oden said.

The professional experience he gained was remarkable and he was involved in some games that really left a mark on his time as an athlete. “I remember a lot of moments, so many great times. I actually

got this one highlight in Poland. It is on YouTube where a teammate of mine, Ed Cota, a great point-guard that played at North Carolina where they went to three Final Fours, who played with Vince Carter, Antawn Jamison,” Oden recalled. “With like 10 seconds left in the game he comes down and crossed a guy over and throws it up. I come in for a reverse slide, dunk-it buzzer beater. That was probably one of the biggest moments of all my seasons.”

Various Leagues

Oden traveled to numerous countries, but his favorite league and city was the first one he stepped foot in for his first team.

“My favorite league was definitely in Israel. Tel Aviv was like New York to me. The basketball, the culture, the life, it’s just crazy,” Oden said.

The level of competition throughout the duration of his time was intense and the play was identically sharp.

“The highest level and the best league that I played in was probably France. It was a really good league,” Oden said. “Many guys from France get drafted into the NBA from the league, but it is not as good as the NBA.”

Looking back on the transition from college to his life overseas, Oden noticed all of the challenges that he faced and overcame.

“It made me grow up fast. When you are over there, you are on your own. You’ve got to cook for yourself, you’ve got to shop for yourself, wash clothes, you learn just to grow up fast over there,” Oden said. Oden, who did mature as a player and a person, made the most of the time he spent with the various

professional teams.

Unfortunately, he suffered from knee problems and had to slow down on his career as he was aging. “I started having multiple problems out of my knees. I had three or four knee surgeries and I tried to recover. You know, finally, I just told myself it’s about time,” Oden said. “I promised to my mom and myself that whenever I stopped I would come back and finish my degree.” After 14 years of playing basketball professionally, the game becomes the life, and does he miss it? “Aww, every day, every day,” Oden said promptly, making it known that he still desires to play the game. “The life is good and the money is great. It was truly a blessing. Every day I miss it.”

The drive and the want to play has not left the 6-foot 9-inch frame of Oden, and that is why he is at Missouri Baptist University finishing his degree and also assisting the MBU men’s basketball team.

“My brother (Josh Ramsey, former MBU player who is currently playing for Division I Chicago State University) was playing here, and I used to come here sometimes and work out with the team. I developed a relationship with Coach (Ray) Farrell, and that is how it all came about,” Oden said. “I came to Coach Farrell and pretty much just said I am looking to come back to school. Is there anything that you can do to help me out? He helped me out and here I am.”

Oden is gradually coming to know his new position in life. He is adjusting to the role as a coach and mentor, rather than being the one who slams the ball through the basket and swats the ball into the crowd.

“This is my first year here and it has been a frustrating year at times,

but I have learned a lot. I learned how to run a practice and different schemes. Coach Ray is a good coach,” Oden said. “I’m just like a volunteer coach, more like an internship, just helping the guys with little things that I know about the game and learning from Coach Ray.”

Oden seems to be a tremendous help to the coaching staff as the head coach offers positive thoughts about his presence on the court. “He (Oden) brings his experience of a professional and Division I athlete and also brings many skill sets of a low post player to the team in practice,” Coach Farrell said. “When he practices, he acts as our scout team guy and he gives us an opportunity to practice against a bigger and taller post player that we do not have on our team.”

The key starters on the team also feel that Oden is truly a solid addition and benefit to the overall success of the team.

Team Reflections on Oden

“If I had to sum up the John Oden effect on our team in one word, it would be experience. All the experience he has acquired in his years playing pro, he uses to help us,” senior starter Calvin Lewis said. “In practice, he is constantly helping every player on the team develop skills. We are fortunate to have the chance to have a former pro player coach us, but more fortunate to have a good coach like Coach Oden helping to guide us along the way,” said Lewis, a physical education major from Houston. Freshman Chris Buzzell, also from Houston, could not agree more with Lewis. “He talks about how to apply what we learn in practice to the games and how preparation be-



Photo By: Ryan Rerich

Oden watches on from behind as Coach Farrell gives the team a serious talk and strategy during one of the timeouts taken during the game.

fore each game is important. He has great insight on how to approach each game. He mostly works with Stanley (Eboh) on certain things that he needs to work on like footwork,” Buzzell said.

Eboh is a freshman starter at MBU coming from Travis High School in Richmond, Texas. He is 6-foot-5, which is a below-average height typically to play the post position in college.

Oden has continued to relay tips to Eboh in areas such as maturity, as well as skills on the court to make up for the constant height disadvantage.

“Big John has taught me a lot throughout the season and has helped me grow and develop as a player. He has taught me different moves as well as different aspects

of viewing basketball in general,” Eboh said. “He will push players to play harder and put in his suggestions with coach. Going up against him in practice has definitely helped me grow and mature physically and mentally, considering his size, and how much he bangs me up.”

After College

Oden has proved to have a positive impact on the team and seems to have a successful future in the coaching industry after college. Shifting from the life of a professional athlete to a student has not been easy for Oden, but he now seems to be full force ahead. “I am going to graduate with a sport management degree hopeful-

ly next spring and I want to get into coaching. I know many people and I just want to see where it takes me,” Oden said.

The experience from a skilled athlete overseas such as Oden is immense. He has a great deal of knowledge to offer a player pondering the chance to leave the U.S. for various professional organizations. “A lot of guys play basketball, but it is only one in a million guys that make it into the NBA. So all of those other guys that are really good usually have the opportunity to go overseas,” Oden said. “I think those guys can go overseas, but you have to work your butt off to get overseas. Basketball is a game all about what you put into it. Whatever you put into the game, you will get out of it.”


A

YEAR



IN

REVIEW



MBU Baseball continues to earn respect this year in the American Midwest Conference and also in the nation as they are 36-10 and 18-5 in conference play specifically. The Spartans once again look to make a solid run at the NAIA National Championship.

Men's Baseball

Men's Volleyball

American Midwest Conference

Men's Volleyball had a decent season that ended with a loss in the conference tournament semi-finals to Missouri Valley College. The Spartans had an overall record of 21-8.





Men's Lacrosse

The Men's Lacrosse team clinched the Southwest Division Championship in mid-April and look to have a strong finish to the season. They have been powered all season by a strong offense and solid defense and goalie play. They are 8-5 on the season.

Women's Basketball

The Lady Spartans battled all season, but their season came to an end with a loss to Freed-Hardeman University in the American Midwest Conference Quarterfinals. They finished the season with a record of 12-20.



Men's Soccer



The Spartans fell to Hannibal-LaGrange University in the AMC Quarterfinals. The men completed the season with an overall record of 9-6-3.

Men's Basketball



The Men's Basketball team struggled all year and their season came to an end in the Opening Round of the AMC Tournament with a loss to William Woods University. The Spartans finished the season with a 7-24 record with a 6-14 record in conference play.

Mr. Spartan

Cornelius Igwe was crowned Mr. Spartan of the 4th annual MBU Mr. Spartan Contest during Homecoming Week in November. His various skills, especially his dancing, made the crowd stand on their feet as they clapped during the crowning of the champion.



Switchfoot



Switchfoot ventured to MBU to debut their "Fading West" tour. The sold out crowd full of Spartans and others from the area filled the Chapel to see the show put on by the tremendous band.

Men's Golf

The Men's Golf team is looking to repeat as conference champions once again this year. The team is confident about their chance as they near the tournament in late April. The team is still young with three sophomores playing a big role on the team and the season.



Comm. Cookout



MBU Cafeteria Hours



Story by Ryan Rerich
MBU Timeline Sports Editor

With many students involved in a variety of activities throughout the day, time is of high importance and eating on campus falls in between and after classes, work or practices.

Students with an MBU meal plan have various options for how many meals they want per week, month or semester, but the cafeteria has certain hours when students can consume their meals.

There are three specific individuals who set the cafeteria hours: Andy Chambers, senior vice president of student development, Ken Reve-nough, senior vice president for business affairs and the dining hall manager, Karen Leija.

“We try to provide maximum flex with students based on their own demands,” Chambers said. “We experiment with hours to see if that is what students are looking for. If they come we look to make a change if needed.”

The Specific Hours

The cafeteria raises the gaits at 7:15 a.m. to serve breakfast and closes them at 9:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. Then the staff will raise them again at 11 a.m. for lunch and close them at 2:30 p.m. for two more hours. Then, for the last time of the day, the gaits rise at 4:30 p.m. for dinner. The regular cafeteria dine-in meals end at 6:30 p.m., while the grill is open until 7:45 p.m. for burgers and food of that sort, Monday-Thursday. Then at the closing of the grill, the gates sink into place for the final time of the day.

Saturday and Sunday, only brunch and dinner hours are offered to the students. Saturday the cafeteria opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 12:30 p.m. On Sunday, brunch is served from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Dinner hours on the weekend stay the same as the weekday hours, except for the fact that the entire cafeteria closes at 6:30 p.m., with no grill option available for the ravenous college student who wants to eat later at night.

Chambers does see the positives of keeping the cafeteria open for both the staff and the students.

“If students want to eat at 9 o’clock, it would not only be beneficial for the students because they could eat later, but also the cafeteria staff because they could get the longer hours to make extra money each week,” Chambers said.

Various Student Opinions

For some students, the hours set now are convenient, and for others not-so-much. Nick Price feels that the cafeteria hours are sufficient and meet his needs.

“I think the cafeteria hours are fine. I get out of practice at 2 every day, so I have about 30 minutes to go grab something real quick, which is better than it being closed,” said Price, a junior Christian ministry studies major.

Victoria Byrd, a resident assistant of the North Hall dorms, is also accepting of the cafeteria hours. “I feel as though the cafeteria hours are somewhat convenient. They start pretty early, but end pretty early as well,” she said.

Being an RA, though, does put that person around others who offer their thoughts often about a variety of topics, one being the cafeteria hours. “Some residents would like for the cafeteria to stay open later at nights, like maybe 8:30 p.m. or so,” said Byrd, a sophomore human services major.

There are clearly other residents at MBU who have differing opinions. Taylor Klingelhofer, sophomore sport management major, is often out late from basketball practice and games, and the cafeteria schedule is not suitable for her.

“As a student-athlete, the cafeteria hours are not convenient for me, especially around dinner. I do not get done with practice until 6 and sometimes they close early so I’m just kinda on my own for dinner,” Klingelhofer said. “And weeknight games too, we do not get done until late and the cafe is already closed.” Chambers offered solid reasoning on why it may be hard to push for later hours during the semester. “When you’re trying to work with the students and the hours, you have to understand both points,



Photo by: Ryan Rerich

Cassie Nesbit, junior public relations major from St. Louis, receives lunch from Joi Henderson, one of the members of the cafeteria staff.

and try to keep the price of the food service contract from going up, unless there is truly a high demand for it,” Chambers said.

Kevin Gude, a freshman biology major, does not particularly like the set cafeteria hours either. “I just wish the hours were better. I wish we could have a better variety of food throughout the day, especially for dinner. It would be nice if the cafeteria stayed open during the day,” Gude said.

Jared Paddick, a senior sport management major, is not relatively pleased with the hours either. “When I get done with my golf practice or tournament, there are not options for me to eat at 8 or 9. There needs to be something around that time on-campus that I can eat with my meal plan that I pay for,” Paddick said. “Also, the breakfast and lunch hours do not work well with my schedule. They should try to stay open throughout the day like some other college campuses.”

Anya Parsons, a senior behavioral

science major, offers a few interesting points dealing with the hours issue.

“The cafeteria could be open longer. And then on the weekends, the hours are really short and almost impossible to catch. I’m not saying there needs to be hot food the whole time, but the hours of to-go boxes should be longer or even cold food, fruit and cereal, so that people can have a chance to eat the meals they paid for,” Parsons said. For some students, the hours work for one or two meals, but not for the other meals they wish to consume in a day.

Andrew Vance, a sophomore exercise science major, and John Drilling, sophomore music ministry major, are two students who seem to take a medial stance on the issue. “The cafeteria hours are great minus the weekends. I like the late night grill options to order a burger,” said Vance. “But when it comes to the weekend, they should have real breakfast hours starting at 7 for people who have to be up early for

work or other activities.”

“I think [the cafeteria hours] are fine, but I think they should be open later at night and keep certain options open like making the burgers and stuff, but morning and lunch hours are good,” Drilling said.

Sophomore Haley Varble, physical education major at MBU, is also frustrated with the dinner hours.

“They are great hours, I just wished that they were open later at night for people who have practice or have to work later and cannot make it at the times the cafeteria is open,” she said.

Chamber’s States the Fact

Chambers does like the idea of keeping the cafeteria open longer, but the facts of the matter are clear. “There are about 300 students on campus here. The market is not as big as I would like, so it makes it hard to justify keeping the cafeteria open longer,” Chambers said.

MBU Writing Lab



Story by Ryan Rerich
MBU Timeline Sports Editor

Some services at MBU may be hidden, but this helping aid needs to be discovered by anyone who is having trouble grasping the art of writing in any college subject.

The MBU Writing Lab, located on the bottom floor of the Field Building, can be the answer to many grammatical issues in various classes.

Elizabeth Busekrus, the Writing Lab coordinator, has made dramatic increases in the number of students who visit the Writing Lab for help.

The O'Fallon, Ill. native attended MBU and graduated in 2012. She is now pursuing a master's degree in English with a specialization in the teaching of writing, which she is finishing this spring at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. The process to sign up for a time is easy and the sessions are quick and constructive.

"The Writing Lab offers face-to-face tutoring appointments where we can work on a variety of things. The appointments usually last 30 minutes to an hour and we are positive with the student's work, and try to make the session really meaningful," Busekrus said.

The Lab's Hours

The Writing Lab's hours listed on MBU's website are as follows:

Monday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 3-4 p.m.

Wednesday: 9-11 a.m., 1-2 p.m.

Wednesday PH Lobby: 6-9 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A student may seek out the Writing Lab for one particular issue and leave with an understanding of a variety of topics concerning the art of writing.

"Students often come to us for help with grammar or formatting, and they walk away not only with a better knowledge in those two areas, but also with stronger ideas for the paper and possibly ways to re-organize the paper," Busekrus said. Students attending the lab are also in agreement with Busekrus.

"The Writing Lab gets my mind going and helps me come up with better writing ideas for my writing," said Alexis Nunley Jr., a junior St.

Louis native.

Debbie Williams, a junior Christian ministry major from Indianapolis, agrees with Nunley.

"It systematically organizes my thoughts, tense and overall structure of my college papers. I can truly say I have become a better writer," she said.

Many students may think the Writing Lab is only useful for English composition courses and other classes of that nature, but that is not true at all.

The Services Offered

"The main subjects that students come to us for are English Composition I and II, but students can come to us for help with any writing assignment," Busekrus said. "I have had students come to me from the Exercise Science Division, Counseling and even for help on lesson plans."

This can be convenient for many students, and in addition the lab creates activities that are beneficial and add some fun to writing. A recently launched resource that MBU students can now use is called the Writing Lab Hotline. It can be found on the MBU Writing Lab's WordPress account.

"The Writing Space is a fairly new service that we started last year. It's an online forum and it hasn't really received any traffic from students,"



Photo by: Ryan Rerich

Busekrus assists Julianne Combs with an assignment from the Basic Reporting and Writing for Journalism class.

Busekrus said. "But now the Writing Lab Hotline is a space where students can come and just ask questions, share ideas and just receive immediate feedback from us." There is also another service called the "Art of Writing and ..." workshops.

This gives students a chance to compare writing to a myriad of activities such as rock wall climbing, yoga and even massages. Along with this, the lab has created enjoyable activities for the writing community such as Shakespearean Valentine's Day, where students could have some Shakespeare read to their professors, friends or a significant other.

"We love to do creative things because we are a service that has tutoring, but we also want to form a writing community on campus," Busekrus said. "We want students to see writing in different ways." The Writing Lab is growing each month, semester and year, and it only looks to keep up the good work.

"I do not see a huge increase overnight. It's a work in progress, little steps. Once we get more coaches from different disciplines we will have the opportunity to form more connections with students," Busekrus said.

Helping the Students

Engaging the student is always a challenge in college academics, and the Writing Lab is working to help in that area.

"All of our ideas are very experimental. We want to engage the student. That is our purpose: for students to engage with us and to engage with writing as well. Not just see it as something that they have to do, but something that they can enjoy," Busekrus said. Williams was ecstatic about the Writing Lab and feels it is a service that should not be overlooked by MBU students.

"I am able to get the point and process what I want to say with great guidance. I have used it

throughout my time at MoBap and will continue to do so," she said. "It is a welcoming environment and less intimidating than one thinks. I encourage all students to use it. Writing is a skill that remains throughout life."

Busekrus is doing all she can to promote the Writing Lab and to help students like Williams and Nunley walk the rigorous path through the MBU campus to gain a college degree.

"Our goal is to reach out to students and to be visible to them. A lot of students know about us, but they may not know exactly what we do. We want to strive to show students who we truly are."

For more information concerning the Writing Lab, feel free to email Busekrus at busekruse@mobap.edu. Also you can visit the lab's website at <http://www.mobap.edu/student-life/success/writing-lab/>.