



ADRIAN McCANDLESS | THE WICHITAN

THE FEW AND THE PROUD

One MSU student's story of service in Iraq

IGGY CRUZ
FOR THE WICHITAN

Three years ago after high school graduation in Vernon, Texas, a confused Eric Mujica made a decision that would forever impact his life. He enlisted in the Marine reserves. Today, the confident 21-year-old lance

corporal is using military discipline and applying it toward his late-night study sessions as a freshman business major at MSU.

Mujica said college never really entered his mind until he visited with his recruiter.

"I never looked at a man from head to toe until I saw my recruiter in his deco-

rated uniform," Mujica said. "He told me the reserves would pay for my college and I would get a chance to see the world at the same time. It got me going because I was getting the chance to better myself with a free education."

Being a reservist, Mujica is property of the Marines for six years and is required to check in with them in Fort Worth for one weekend each month, every month, and two weeks a month during the summer.

Mujica recalls the day he was informed of his departure to Iraq, only because it was summed up in a few words.

"I got a call from Corporal Bonds and all he said was, 'Hey, Mujica, you're going.' End of conversation," Mujica said.

Mujica said his heart dropped. "But it was something you expect to hear," he said. "I didn't tell my parents until two days later. They knew something was wrong because I kept to myself during that time."

Mujica said he spent as much time as possible with his family before deployment. He knew in the end the outcome of this experience would greatly benefit him mentally and financially.

Mujica took an 18-hour flight from the Dallas/Fort Worth area to Iraq as he chartered foreign territory for the first time in his life. Already jet-lagged, Mujica said reality slapped him as soon as he stepped off the plane. Mujica and several other reserves then took C-130s, a military cargo, from Camp Victory in Kuwait to Camp Blue Diamond in Aramadi, Iraq. Images and video he had seen of war were right in front of him.

"It's like all the stuff you see on television about war and people dying," he said. "I started wondering what I got myself into."

Once at Blue Diamond, Mujica said fellow soldiers gathered to inform newbie's of unsafe areas around the camp. He said he was shocked to learn many restaurants and hangouts were getting bombed frequently by terrorists.

"When they got us there, they were like, 'Don't go here because it's been bombed the last two days,'" he said. "It was shocking to me."

At Blue Diamond, Mujica was responsible for setting up satellite and radio equipment for communication and security. One of his duties was to establish entry control points (ECG) to provide safety of incoming citizens. At these control points, marines check identification of people entering the area, do a retina eye scan and enter personal information into a government database for future reference.

Mujica said life on base was good for some and bad for others. He noted that many had enlisted as a way of a fresh beginning in life, while others were there

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Prominent lit crit's coming

ASHLEY JACKSON
FOR THE WICHITAN

The MSU English department is inaugurating a new annual lecture series this year.

The Bourland-Hawley Lectures in Comparative Literature and Mythology is scheduled to begin March 7 at 3 p.m. in the Prothro-Yeager Liberal Arts building. A reception will follow at 4 p.m.

Dr. Lansing Smith, of the MSU English program, said in the 17 years he has been here, he has never seen a literary critic or literary scholar give a lecture.

According to Smith, the time has come for an MSU lecture series involving literature.

"This lecture series fills a gap in our program, especially since we have a graduate program," Smith said.

Dr. Steven Weisenburger, Mossiker chair of humanities and chair of the English Department at Southern Methodist University, will be the first speaker. He will lecture about the novels of Thomas Pynchon.

Pynchon, an American writer based in New York City, is regarded by many critics as one of the finest

contemporary authors.

Weisenburger's lecture will focus on politics in "Gravity's Rainbow," Pynchon's most celebrated novel about post-World War II Europe.

The book won the 1974 National Book Award for fiction and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. The book also won the William Dean Howells Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, although Pynchon declined the award.

Weisenburger specializes in American literary and cultural history. His prominent study is in the cultural history of race from 1800 to the present.

He also has written a reader's guide to "Gravity's Rainbow" called "A Gravity's Rainbow Companion."

The series is being funded by John and Elizabeth Hawley. Elizabeth Hawley has been a student in the MSU English program for several years and is actively involved in the MSU Literary Society as well as the publication of *Voices*, a student-governed publication that includes photographs, poetry, fiction, essays and art.

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Local artist tapped to make Mustangs

CHRISTIAN MCPHATE
STAFF REPORTER

The university has commissioned local sculptor Jack Stevens to create a 3-mustang sculpture and several smaller tabletop statues that will go on display in two years.

According to Dr. Howard Farrell, vice president of university advancement and student affairs, the university did not use tuition or state money to fund the project.

An anonymous donor is privately funding the \$300,000 for the project honoring the new school mascot.

"There are some individuals who feel closer to art or objects that create beauty," Farrell said, speaking of the contributor. "They feel it is part of the quality of life of a campus."

The expectations are that the statue will be one and one-eighth times the size of real life, he said.

Stevens created a wax model of

the mascot that sat on display in the boardroom for a couple of days.

The wax piece is rich in detail that is typical of the artist's work, Farrell said.

Stevens created many of the sculptures around campus, including the Sun Watcher, Hotter 'N Hell Hundred Bicycle and the Wee-Chi-Tah near the Wichita River.

Stevens' working-class cowboy background gives his sculptures a unique, life-like design so one "can feel the dust and sense the smell of horses in the air."

University officials have not decided on a specific location, but some officials suggested placing the statue in front of Hardin while others mentioned a more visible spot near the corner of Taft Boulevard and Midwestern Parkway.

"We want it very visible," President Jesse Rogers said. "We think it will add dramatically to the other types of art across the campus."

O'Donohoe clinic gets patients psyched

ROBERT FOX
FOR THE WICHITAN

Follow the yellow laminated signs to the far hallway on the first floor of O'Donohoe to the psychology clinic.

The signs lead to the clinic secretary's door. The windowless door just right of the secretary's door opens into a small waiting room.

Graduate students working to earn their first set of practicum hours escort their clients from the waiting room to one of the therapy rooms. Therapy generally consists of discussing and reacting to personal problems.

Some of the more common initial reasons students go to the clinic are test anxiety, depression from any of several causes and couples counseling. Depression and couples' issues are also common initial complaints among non-students. But the community members who use the clinic

also have post-divorce and midlife issues, as well as bipolar disorder.

The secretary, the clinic office, the windowless waiting room, the furniture and the audio visual recording room are all relatively new. The clinic received a facelift in 1999 and finally moved to its present place in 2001.

"I've only known the new clinic," said Dr. Michael Vandehey, director of clinical training.

Its location and face may be new, but the clinic itself is much older. In fact, Vandehey said the clinic pre-dates Dr. George M. Diekhoff, chair of the psychology department, who has been teaching at MSU since 1977.

The new clinic also has a control room capable of monitoring and recording all five therapy rooms. This control room is vital to the clinic because the graduate students who are the clinicians must record their sessions for review with instructors.

Right now three clinicians see three or four clients per week. Vandehey said this situation is ideal in that there are enough clinicians that they can and still do take on new clients. He said the current staff could handle as many as 15 clients.

"We don't want to go to six to eight (clients) per person. We want people getting good experience and not feeling like they're being stretched in multiple directions," he said.

Vandehey said the training clinic's mission is to provide the first clinical training experience.

"It's really nice that we have this local (on campus) facility because it makes it easier for the clinical faculty to monitor performance and to train and shape our students," he said.

Vandehey said community members without insurance covering mental health services pay \$5 per session. Currently, the majority of

the cliental comes from the community.

Students and faculty, on the other hand, may use the faculty at no cost.

"If you're associated with the university you can come for free," he said.

The clinic cannot handle people who are actively threatening suicide, actively psychotic (hallucinations/delusions) or are a threat to others. Local facilities with 24-hour phone monitoring and staff are better suited to deal with those problems.

"We have nothing to do with medication," Vandehey said. "We're trying to help people think and feel differently so that they see improvement in their lives."

He said for many people, simply talking about the problem presents ideas of solvable steps to overcome it.



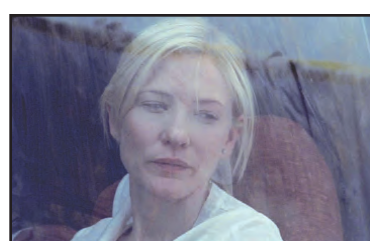
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INSIDE

'Babel'

This gem about interconnected strangers was snubbed at the Oscars.

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'The Number 23'

It's hard to take Jim Carrey seriously in this seriously unsuspenseful thriller.

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MSU rolls SWOSU

The Mustangs beat Southwestern Oklahoma State 90-67 and are advancing to the LSC Semifinals.

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