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Dance Marathon rocks out for more

BUDM's 'Festival of Hope' brings campus together through music



Professor Fabiana Alceste led attendees in zumba during group rotations. ***Photo by Andrew Buckley.***

Lauren Fischer
Assistant Marketing Manager
lrfischer@butler.edu

Butler University Dance Marathon (BUDM) held its Day of Marathon on Saturday, Feb. 28, where students from across campus joined together at the Health and Recreation Complex and raised $342,304.13 for Riley Hospital for Children.

This year, BUDM embraced its theme, "Festival of Hope," by learning dances to popular hits led by the morale team — a group of students dedicated to boosting energy throughout the day and teaching choreography. Alongside morale, students were guided through activities by BUDM executive committee members and color team captains. Multiple student organizations make up each color team, and the teams compete to raise the most money.

Throughout the day, students hear stories from Riley kids and families to learn about the personal impact Riley had on their lives. All the money that BUDM raises on the Day of Marathon and at events over the year goes directly to pediatric cancer research in honor of Sarah Michelle Cohen.

Willa Gramann, a junior strategic communications major and co-director of marketing for BUDM, emphasized how Riley Hospital has a strong presence in Indianapolis due to its downtown location, making it a valued cause for many Butler students.

"[If you] walk into [a] room, there's probably five people that have been treated at Riley," Gramann said.

The proximity of Riley Children's Hospital to Butler also allows members of BUDM to remain involved throughout the year, with some members serving as volunteers or employees, and others taking time to show their support in other ways.

Olivia McKee, a senior marketing major and BUDM president, spoke about how the relationship between BUDM and Riley is a crucial part of the club.

"We like to go to their [events] too," McKee said. "We like to show them it's not just a one-way thing. If [they] have a soccer game, we'd love to come cheer [them] on. Our Riley Relations Committee does a really good job at fostering those relationships and making sure we can sustain connections with those families throughout the years."

McKee also discussed her favorite part of the Day of Marathon, when attendees get to see all of their work and efforts throughout the year come together.

"My favorite part is the fundraising reveal at the end of the night," McKee said. "A lot of people don't realize that Dance Marathon is a whole year thing. We do things like the pickleball tournament [and] dodgeball [tournament, working] towards our big day today. Getting to see that number at the end of the night is really rewarding and a super special moment."

This year, BUDM fundraised over $10,000 more than the previous year. The club has worked to raise more money by increasing involvement all around campus, using the color teams to engage student leaders from athletic teams, Greek life, service or religious organizations and more.

Sophomore elementary education major Ivy Padilla expressed excitement about how the Day of Marathon brings so many people together in unique ways.

"BUDM takes it to a whole different [level]. You're not thinking of it as service hours; you are helping a cause bigger than yourself," Padilla said. "Raising money like this is very family-friendly and involves younger kids, too, not just us students. I think it's important to bring in everyone, and [to] see [that we are] all a community, no matter if you're not in Greek life, you are in Greek life [or] you're in different clubs. Everyone is a part of this."

One of the popular student events during the Day of Marathon is the lip syncs, where fraternities and sororities perform dances to on-theme songs such as Zara Larsson's "Lush Life", competing to fundraise.

Padilla, who choreographed and danced in the lip sync for Butler's chapter of Phi Kappa Psi, got involved in BUDM after watching and admiring the lip syncs last year. He mentioned that fundraising for Riley's Children's Hospital was always a big part of his life, and he is thankful for the chance to remain involved with it.

"All [through elementary school] I remember fundraising for [Riley], and so seeing [it] still be a part of my life and seeing it come full circle into my college life," Padilla said. "I love what we're doing, and I think that it's important that we also bring awareness to it, because I think I [want to] find a way to fundraise for Riley's when I become a teacher. It's been a part of my life forever, so I want to keep it going."

Whether or not students have personal connections to Riley, through dance, games, crafts and stories, hundreds of students were brought together to fight for one cause.

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E-Week previews new engineering program

Events celebrate the department opening Fall 2026

Kate Norrod
Staff Reporter
knorrod@butler.edu

National Engineers Week (E-Week) is celebrated Feb. 22 through 28, and this year Butler was involved for the first time. The Engineering Dual Degree Program (EDDP), an agreement between Butler and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), is coming to an end after 25 years. This fall, the new engineering program sponsored by Butler alone will launch, featuring bioengineering, chemical engineering and mechanical engineering majors. E-Week serves as a way to look forward to the new department.

Monday, Feb. 23 started the week of activities with a meet and greet with engineering faculty and staff with sweets were provided. The rest of the week consisted of events aimed to engage the community with engineering concepts and offerings.

Jeff Carvell, a Butler graduate and the inaugural department chair of engineering, especially enjoyed this first event. Carvell spent time at Marian University founding its engineering program before hearing about Butler's plans and returning to his alma mater.

"I met people from departments that I had not met before, and we will probably be working closely together in the future," Carvell said.

In the brand-new Engineering MakerSpace, 3D printers were open to the public on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Carvell noted the large turnout of the event, adding that there was a lot of energy in the room, which he enjoyed.

Wednesday, Feb. 25 offered a wind tunnel demonstration involving paper planes. A women in engineering-themed trivia event was hosted on Thursday, Feb. 26, where prizes were given out to all participants. Friday, Feb. 27 was the last event day, where students and staff were challenged to build the tallest tower they could out of marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti noodles.

Carvell stated that the timing of the E-Week launch was intentional, given that the new program is arriving on campus this fall. The department is developing quickly with the addition of new labs and equipment, and Carvell was able to show off the new equipment to Butler Bound students on Friday.

"A month ago, these labs didn't exist," Carvell said. "So, even in the past month, [seeing] that growth has been really exciting, and we can't wait to have our own students."

Anaiah Banks, an EDDP art + design and mechanical engineering dual major, feels that the new program will include a lot of things she thinks are missing from EDDP, including more hands-on elements compared to lots of theoretical learning, which she finds to be more stressful and less engaging.

"Since they're bringing in new equipment, I think that's just a step toward the right path," Banks said.

CJ Carmichael is also a senior art + design and mechanical engineering dual major, looking to go into the gaming industry after graduation. He hopes to take advantage of the new technology that Butler has brought in. Carmichael is also looking forward to what Butler engineering could become.

"I was really happy to learn that they did streamline [the process] for students here at Butler, because it is a liberal arts college, but it has such a great focus on STEM as well," Carmichael said.

Carvell corroborated this by citing The Butler Way.

"This is going to be a Butler version of engineering," Carvell said. "It's not going to be the same thing you get at Purdue [or] Rose-Hulman."

Due to engineering being placed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the new curriculum will be more unique compared to other universities' engineering programs. Carvell emphasized a focus on ethics, economics, speaking and writing like an engineer.

Banks agreed that a Butler education is different from one you would receive at any other college.

"Having all those elements [of success] along with [Butler] teaching will help students go a lot farther than [they] probably would have in the normal EDDP program," Banks said.

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Campus gas leak reports increase in spring semester

Ella Hall
Staff Reporter
erhall@butler.edu

This semester, four separate gas leak alerts have been sent out to students through Dawg Alerts for Atherton Union, Jordan Hall and Clowes Memorial Hall.

The alerts went out due to reported instances of odor in each of the buildings, which were then responded to by the Butler University Police Department (BUPD) dispatching emergency services who worked with the Butler facilities department to adequately locate and fix each issue.

Junior arts administration major Emma Huser was working in Clowes Jan. 30 when the first instance of gas odor was reported.

"Patrons [were] coming up to the box office, going, 'There's a gas leak. You should probably call that in.' So, after like the third person mentioning it, someone called it in," Huser said. "The police had us evacuate to Lily Hall because it was too cold outside."

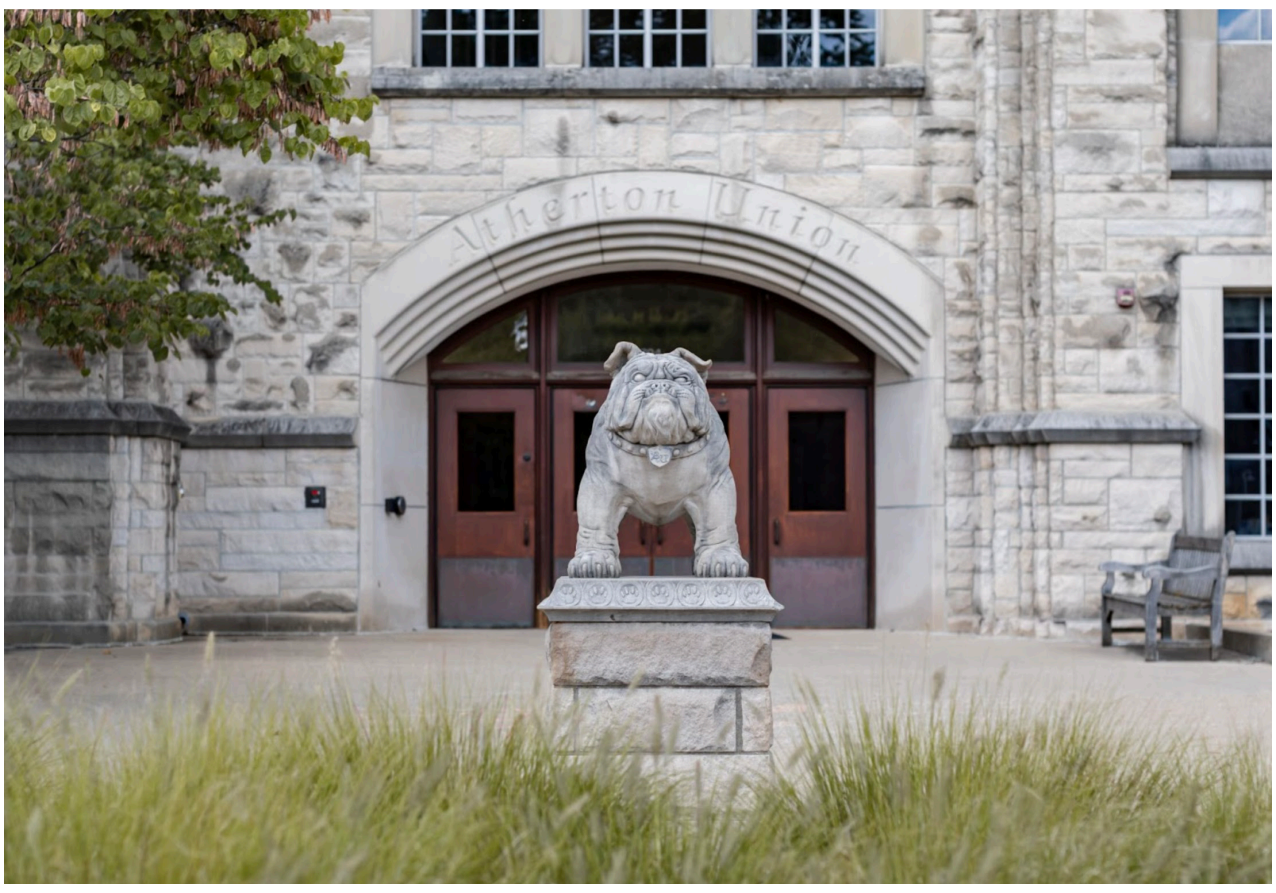
Roy Betz, captain of police administration for emergency preparedness and training for BUPD, spoke on the importance of Dawg Alerts that are sent out in response to issues like gas leaks that the public needs to be made aware of quickly.

"When you get a Dawg Alert, it's for a very important message," Betz said. "We're very careful in how we send those Dawg Alerts out, because we don't want to send out so many that students, faculty and staff say, 'that's another Dawg Alert. I'm not going to worry about it,' right? When you get that text message from us as a Dawg Alert, it's something that's very important that you need to pay particular attention to."

Huser claimed that she did not get the Dawg Alert for the incident until much later, and that she tends to ignore the alerts from other buildings.

"I feel like I would hear the fire alarm before I hear the Dawg Alert," Huser said. "I don't know if I'm in like, a second wave or third wave of people that get Dawg Alerts, but I, for some reason, get Dawg Alerts way slower than everyone else does."

She expressed her surprise that Clowes has been affected by gas leak issues, and recalled being told that the issue was not regarding natural gas, but rather the boiler.



Four gas odor alerts have been sent out this semester. ***Collegian file photo.***

Rusty Vinyard, Butler's associate vice president for facilities and operations, explained the process of addressing the gas incidents in Clowes from his end.

"They couldn't find anything that was causing the smell," Vineyard said. "So the 'all clear' was given. And then when it happened again, they ended up finding a small fitting that was emitting some odor that had come loose, [which] was rectified."

The incident in Jordan Hall, he said, was a sewer trap rather than an actual gas leak. He explained that when the sewer pipes get dry, they can often emit a gas-like smell.

Vinyard emphasized that the recent alerts are not related and are not cause for public concern.

"I think every situation is unique to the sense of what it might be, and it could just be [a] coincidence that they've happened in a row," Vineyard said. "Like anything else, they need [to be] exercised, or they need scheduled maintenance, or things checked, and sometimes we don't know about it until an emergency happens."

There have been no further gas odor alerts since Feb. 23.

Breaking the fast and building a community

MSA's fifth annual iftar brought students together to learn about Islam

Lauren Fischer
Assistant Marketing Manager
lrfischer@butler.edu

The Muslim Student Alliance (MSA) hosted its fifth annual iftar on Feb. 25 in the Reilly Room, where students and community members joined together to break their fast. The evening began with a presentation on what Ramadan represents for Muslims and its traditions, and then attendees joined for prayer and a traditional meal of different Middle Eastern and South Asian foods.

In Islam, the holy month of Ramadan marks the ninth month in the lunar calendar, when the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Throughout the month, Muslims partake in fasting from sunrise to sunset, and in the evenings, they join together for a fast-breaking meal, iftar. Ramadan is a time when Muslims connect with their community and faith through discipline and tradition.

Sahar Atman, a junior biology and Spanish double major and president of MSA, expressed how Ramadan has helped her grow.

"A lot of people think [that] when you take something so integral as your food and water away, you're forced to put everything else into perspective," Atmar said. "It teaches you dedication and discipline. If you can dedicate yourself to doing something that's so difficult, like starving yourself all day, you can definitely dedicate yourself to being a better person, using your tongue more kindly, not speaking badly to people and making sure that you're being ethical in every act that you do."

This year marked Atman's third iftar on campus as a part of MSA, and she has valued this event and all that it brings to campus. She has loved educating the community about the important traditions of her religion while providing a safe space for Muslims at Butler.

Hassan Hashmi, a sophomore healthcare business major and MSA member, discussed why he finds this event important, noting that learning about other cultures is invaluable.

"When you open your mind, and you learn about what different faiths have to say, or what different cultures are about from their own standards and [you are not] projecting your standards onto them, I think you become a much more well-rounded and intelligent individual," Hashmi said. "It makes processes, like navigating life, a lot easier."



Students and community members enjoyed a traditional meal to break their fast. ***Photo by Mason Buysse.***

Atman reiterated this idea, finding college a crucial time for cultural education, as growing up as a minority student can be very isolating.

"At the age of 10, it felt like a really big burden to have to be the one to explain all of Islam to somebody," Atmar said. "I wish that an adult were able to convey those things, because … When you're 10 years old, you're not an expert in your faith. I don't think anyone is. I don't think we should expect that from people. I think college is a big time that I saw and sought out opportunities to not only learn about my faith, but learn about all these other faiths."

MSA aimed to educate students about their traditions, hoping to bridge the gap in cultural knowledge on campus.

Sisters Lily Tomlinson, a sophomore biology major, and Madi Tomlinson, a senior chemistry and Spanish double major, attended the iftar after passing the club's tabling earlier in the month. They appreciated this chance to learn more about cultures that they have learned little about in school.

"You'll never fully understand all of these cultures around the world unless you get to experience a little part of it," Lily said. "I feel like it's really important, especially with what's going on today, to go out and take the time as college students [to experience other cultures] when the opportunity comes."

They also acknowledged the accepting environment of the event, as they strived to include students of all backgrounds.

"We didn't fast for the [iftar], but I still felt really invited," Madi said. "It was really cool to see how welcoming [MSA was], allowing us to experience this [tradition] that is so special and important to them."

MSA is excited to continue its tradition of holding an iftar in upcoming years, taking advantage of any opportunities to share its culture with students and grow its community.

"There's a different feeling in the air when it's Ramadan," Atman said. "There's a sense of community [knowing] I'm gonna see my people all the time. I'm gonna be in prayer with people all the time; we're going to be in conjunction, trying to better ourselves and be kinder to one another, and just learning more about ourselves in our community. During this time, we are so much more in sync with one another."

Rebounding from injury

How Saniya Jackson bounced back to become a key player







Redshirt sophomore guard Saniya Jackson is one of the Dawgs' most reliable players.
Photos by Drew Kosmak.

Nhu-Han Bui
Sports Co-Editor
hbui@butler.edu

With only one season worth of film and fresh off an ACL injury, redshirt sophomore guard Saniya Jackson was unsure if any coach would take a chance on her in the transfer portal.

Now, almost one year after committing to Butler, Jackson leads the Bulldogs in rebounds and steals, and is the second-highest scorer on the team. The guard recently notched her second career double-double against DePaul on Feb. 25 as well, ending the game with 19 points and 14 rebounds.

After missing the entirety of her sophomore year, Jackson and twin sister Nevaeh decided to transfer when Valparaiso fired head coach Mary Evans. Although head coach Austin Parkinson only had Jackson's first year on tape, he was willing to bring the twins to Butler — a chance that has since paid off.

Parkinson thinks that Saniya's willingness to learn and adapt to Butler's system was key to her becoming a core player for the team.

"I think Saniya's perspective really helped her," Parkinson said. "She was so grateful to be healthy when she got here that she tried hard to learn what we're doing in our system. And because she did that, she looked really, really good, and she's always played really hard. I've been really proud of the year that she's had."

Along with returning to the Division I level of play, Jackson had the added challenge of adapting to a new school, locker room and conference. Having not played since March of 2024, the guard entered the season with low expectations and high-strung nerves.

The Bulldogs' first match, an exhibition game against Taylor, was Jackson's first time back on a court in 19 months.

"I think my most nervous game was our scrimmage because I [had not] played in front of people [or in] a game in so long," Jackson said. "[Before] every game I [say], 'It's gonna be okay, everything's fine,' [and] I don't have any fear that I'm gonna hurt myself again."

Despite her nerves, Jackson shone for the Dawgs. In her 23 minutes of playtime, she scored 19 points, along with four rebounds and two steals. Since then, the guard has continued to be a consistent player for the team on both sides of the ball.

Throughout the season, Jackson has risen to the challenge of playing in the Big East, and her effort has not gone unnoticed by Parkinson and the team.

She has earned her teammates' respect for her work ethic and character, and Parkinson thinks that her growth throughout the season has raised the bar for the team.

"[Watching her improve has been] unbelievable," Parkinson said. "She went from playing in the Missouri Valley to playing in the Big East. She leads us in scoring [and is] one of our best, if not our best rebounder. She's our best defensive player. She's really efficient [with] how she plays. And the one thing you can say about her [is that] she brings it every single day, and it raises the level for our team."

Although the first time Jackson tore her ACL was back during her junior year of high school, her most recent tear came right after she was cleared to return from another knee injury.

Having gone through the surgery once already, Jackson was more prepared to bounce back, but the mental toll from back-to-back injuries and missing a season was heavier the second time around.

"Sitting out a whole year was hard, but I just took it as an opportunity to be ready for when the next year came," Jackson said. "It's obviously not something that I wanted, because I actually tore my meniscus first, got cleared, [then] tore my ACL. It was just one thing after another. I was in a really sad mindset, but I quickly changed that, and I was just like, 'I just got to get back and get better,' so that's what I did."

Nevaeh, who has been teammates with Saniya their whole career, was by her side through both injuries. She credits her sister's determination to grow from the setbacks with making her a better player.

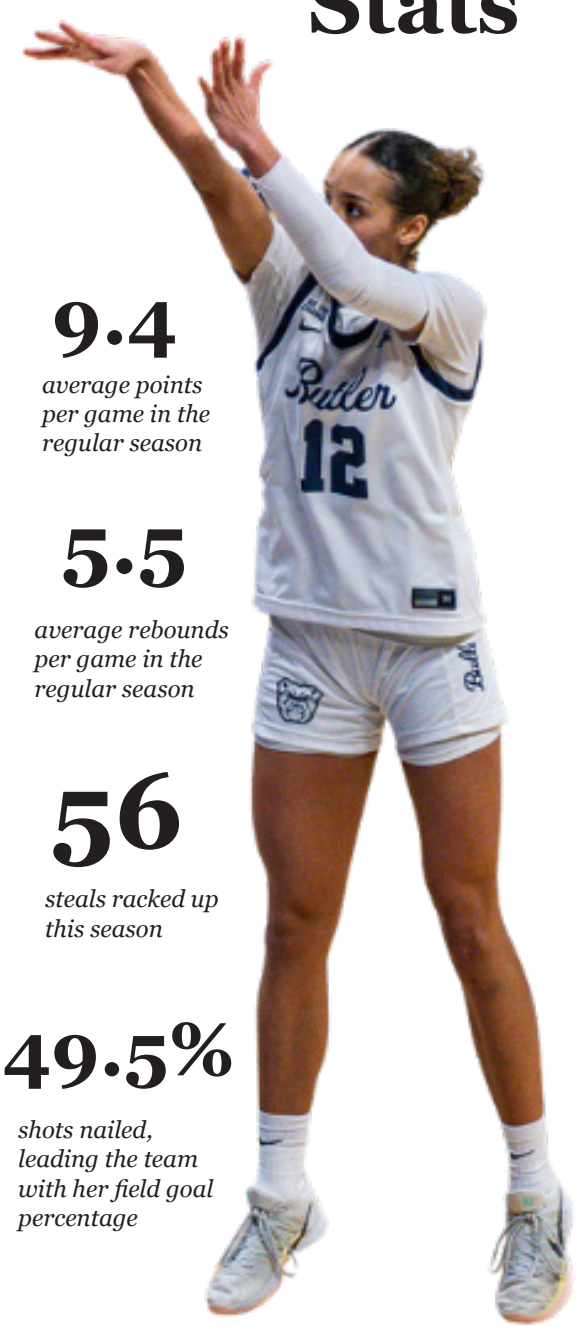
"I've seen her come back from ACL [injuries] twice, and both times she's come back stronger than before," Nevaeh said. "I think that Saniya put her head down and she was like, 'This sucks, but [God] knew it was gonna happen,' and she took it as an opportunity for herself to get stronger, faster and just build back up to where she was. It's been awesome to see. When I was out a little bit this season [with a broken hand], being able to watch her, [I was like], 'Wow, she really grew so much.' It was just amazing."

Jackson finished the regular season averaging 9.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. The guard also racked up 56 steals and led the team in field goal percentage, nailing 49.5% of her shots.

Now, as the Bulldogs look towards the Big East Tournament, Jackson remains thankful for the opportunity to play basketball. She seeks to close the year out strong and continue giving her all on the court.

"I was just grateful for any opportunity I got at this point because I was just happy to still be playing basketball," Saniya said. "A lot of people don't think about playing after having multiple knee surgeries, and I just thought, 'I'm gonna be grateful for anything I have.' I'm playing in the Big East and I'm with my family, so with anything that I get and anytime I get on the floor, I'm gonna make the most of it and work hard."

Saniya's Stats



9.4
average points per game in the regular season

5.5
average rebounds per game in the regular season

56
steals racked up this season

49.5%
shots nailed, leading the team with her field goal percentage

Sports Scores





Women's Basketball
Feb. 25: 71-64 win at DePaul
March 1: 62-55 win vs. Seton Hall

Men's Basketball
Feb. 25: 82-73 loss at Villanova

Women's Track
Feb. 27-28:
Placed seventh out of 10 at the Big East Indoor Championships

Men's Track
Feb. 27-28:
Placed third out of 9 teams at Big East Indoor Championships



Men's Tennis
March 1: 6-1 loss vs. Cleveland State

Women's Tennis
March 1: 6-1 loss vs. DePaul



Lacrosse
March 1: 16-11 win vs. Duquesne

Baseball
March 1: 3-1 loss at Marshall

Photos by Drew Kosmak, Jonathan Wang and Andrew Buckley.

Onye way from the Pioneer League to the NFL



Onye Onuoha played in 12 games this past season, recording 10 pass breakups and 37 tackles.

Photo by Lilly Frieling.

Brooks Baker-Watson
Staff Reporter
bbakerwatson@butler.edu

When 6-year-old Onye Onuoha sat down with his family to tune in to Super Bowl XLIV, he did not expect anything to blossom out of a competition he created with his younger sister.

"We didn't know [which] team was [which], and it's her first time watching football," Onuoha said. "So I'm like, 'I'm going for the black and gold team, and you go for the blue team,' and my sister just said, 'Ok.'"

Little did the Onuoha siblings know that they were going to witness one of the most iconic Super Bowls of the 21st century between the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints — a game that featured Peyton Manning throwing for over 300 yards, a surprise onside kick by the Saints to enter the second half and the immortalized interception by Tracy Porter to seal the game and give New Orleans its first and only Lombardi Trophy.

With all these electrifying plays unfolding before his very eyes, Onuoha slowly became increasingly enveloped in the game, bringing out a passion from within to share the same stage as the players on his screen.

However, as with most athletes who want to go pro, Onuoha first had to grapple with whether he even had a shot to make the league — a thought that kept changing over the course of his playing career.

"When I got to high school, I started playing a little bit more [and the dream was still a dream]," Onuoha said. "Then I got recruited to college, and I was like, 'Maybe there is an outside shot of being able to play [in the NFL] right?'"

Onuoha was first recruited to Dartmouth College out of Montbello High School in 2020, where he spent four years as a cornerback for the Big Green. It was after his senior season that he decided to transfer as a graduate to Butler, where he saw an opportunity to fully live up to his potential.

"[When] I came to Butler, I wanted to be able to take my shot," Onuoha said. "So, when I was [going] into these [last two] seasons, I started to realize [that] there's definitely an opportunity here [to make a name for myself]."

Not only did Onuoha make a name for himself on the Bulldogs' defense, but he also put the entire Pioneer League on notice. In 24 games played, Onuoha recorded two sacks, 70 total tackles, one interception and 11 passes defended — ten of which came during the 2025 campaign. He was also listed as an honorable mention on the 2025 All-PFL teams this past year.

After the season concluded for Butler, Onuoha felt like it was finally time to attempt to make his dream a reality. So, he entered his name into the NFL Draft.

"People who've mentored me or who've played in the league before, they've said, 'Hey, you have all the intangible [skills], but can we just put that together?'," Onuoha said. "So, that kind of gave me the confidence to just go out [these past few seasons], play free [and] just have fun because the more I have fun, the more I feel like I'm [playing] into my goals."

Although it is a major step, entering his name in the draft is only the first step of a multi-month process that can be grueling for prospective players — especially for those who are not coming from the FBS level, the upper echelon of college football.

For example, Onuoha is currently in his home state of Colorado, prepping with an independent trainer to perform in front of NFL scouts at Dartmouth's pro day. After not receiving an invitation to the NFL Combine — only 300 to 330 players are invited each year — attending a pro day is the only option for Onuoha and players like him to showcase their skills.

But where that can be seen as a burden, Onuoha views it as a blessing. After all, the draft in reality is about as predictable as a hurricane when it comes to who will be picked and when, combine or no combine. Current star wide receiver Tyreek Hill and NFL Hall of Fame tight end Antonio Gates are two prominent cases of players who have made their mark on the league without attending the combine.

"The NFL [teams] are like, 'If you can play, you can play,'" Onuoha said. "There's no politics. It doesn't get into a popularity contest; it's all about production, numbers and what you can do on the field."

When it comes to how he hopes NFL teams will perceive his play, Onuoha believes that his versatility on the field will jump off the tape.

"From what I've shown throughout my film and throughout [my career], I'm an all-around corner that's not just a corner," Onuoha said. "I can be plug-and-play in the [defensive] secondary. Like you can put me at safety, you can put me at nickel [corner], you can put me [anywhere] and I will find a way to thrive. Not just because I'm fast, but also because of the physicality I bring and I'm cerebral and know where I'm supposed to be at. I can impose my will on somebody else."

On-field play is only half of the story that prospects must show teams to garner attention. The other half is how they not only carry themselves, but also those around them.

According to head coach Kevin Lynch, teams will not have to worry about Onuoha being a nuisance in the locker room.

"Onye was one of the first guys I met when I took the job here, and was one of the first conversations I had with a guy in my office when we were deciding what he was going to do in finishing [his] fifth year," Lynch said. "I'm so glad that he played here; he's just a really good guy. [He's a] good leader, does things the right way and he's a good football player. You know he's obviously got the physical size to play at the next level and he really understands the game well. I just think [any team that picks him up] is going to get a very mature, focused guy. He's very well thought out. [He] knows how to put the work in and will bring his best every day."

> **"The journey within itself is the thing that's the most admired and the greatest thing about this process, not where you get to."**
>
> ***- Graduate defensive back Onye Onuoha***

Senior defensive back Will Mason, Onuoha's teammate and fellow draft prospect, shared similar reviews of his presence in the locker room, saying that he is and has been a person focused on uplifting others more than anything.

"[He's] the type of guy that you were glad you had in your room," Mason said. "Always, always, always just being positive [and] keeping the team morale up. He was just always a plus, never a negative, never neutral for the room. He's a guy who's gonna bring his whole self every single day into the room. I think that's one of the things you learn about him pretty quickly. He's a quiet guy; he doesn't say much to start with. [But] once you get to know Onye, he's a talker and then he also can really become a force [to be reckoned with]."

Overall, Onuoha is fully embracing the trials and tribulations that have come or will come as draft day approaches. But at this very moment, the focus for him is taking every day for what it is.

"I kind of got this from [our strength and conditioning coach Dan Wenger] when me and him had a long talk one time about my goals and stuff; but he was mainly focused on [telling me] to be where my feet are at," Onuoha said. "You can't worry about tomorrow if you don't live for today. Being in the moment, enjoying the little things in life, doing the things that you're supposed to do. Maybe it's training, being in school, [hanging out] with friends, being with family, like those are important steps to help you along this process, right? So, if you kind of overlook those, you're not seeing the true value, the hard work and the meaning of this journey. The journey within itself is the thing that's the most admired and the greatest thing about this process, not where you get to."

Sixteen years ago, Onuoha thought the closest he would ever be to an NFL field was watching the Super Bowl with his family. Now, he is only one chance away from stepping onto one for himself.

Meet Cate Lehner: Softball's newly crowned hits queen

Maria Clara Koller
Staff Reporter
mkollerfernandez@butler.edu

Had a former teammate not broken her arm 14 years ago, senior outfielder Cate Lehner might have never broken Butler's all-time hits record. The Indianapolis native, now one of the most decorated athletes at Butler, started her softball career with some of the worst news an aspiring athlete can hear.

"I tried out for the travel team by my house, and I was the only girl that got cut from the team because I was so bad," Lehner said. "Then one of my friends broke her arm and they needed one more player, so I played. That's why I'm still playing, because that girl broke her arm."

Fortunately for Lehner, the rest of her career panned out better than the start. Before becoming a Bulldog, she led Roncalli High School to consecutive IHSAA 4A State Softball championships in her junior and senior seasons. The team was named 2022 MaxPreps National Champions, becoming the first Indiana team to earn the honor, and was named the sixth-best high school team of all time.

During the recruitment process, Lehner's high school coach contacted head coach Scott Hall about the outfielder. He compared her to Lauren Fey, a 2022 Butler graduate and former Roncalli student-athlete, who is top-10 in four different career lists — batting average, hits, stolen bases and walks.

Hall was easily persuaded and took a chance on Lehner.

"She is probably the easiest recruit I've ever had," Hall said. "I'm friends with their high school coach, and he called and said, 'Hey, I think I've got another Lauren Fey for you.' I said, 'Well, those are big shoes to fill'. She came to Butler and has worked her tail off and [has] God-given talent. So [this is] what happens when God-given talent and hard work meet up. She's earned it, for sure."

Lehner came to a Butler softball camp and everything fell into place. A strong sense of community, the culture and the comfort of being close to home all played a factor in bringing the national champion to Butler.

"I really loved the balance of academics and athletics here," Lehner said. "I live only 20 minutes from here, which is really nice. When I came to a camp here, I loved the coaching staff and all the players that I met had a lot of great things to say about the community [and the] culture on the team. I thought it was a perfect fit."

Hall's trust in Lehner has paid off. She started off her career by earning All-Big East Second Team honors in 2023, while receiving All-Big East First Team honors in her sophomore and junior year. Lehner exploded in her junior year, earning NFCA Great Lakes Region second team honors and breaking the Butler single-season record for batting average, hits, stolen bases and runs. In her final season as a Bulldog, she finds herself in the top-10 for career runs and stolen bases, while breaking the hits record in her game against Tennessee State on Feb. 14.

Lehner recalled the moment a first-inning bunt in the first game of the series broke the 17-year-old record.

"It really felt good to see all my teammates so excited for me," Lehner said. "It made me feel really loved and appreciated. I looked up at my mom and my grandma, and they were really excited too. To have such great support from my teammates and coaches felt really nice."

Senior outfielder Emily Todor has played alongside Lehner their entire collegiate career. As they both enter their final season, Todor spoke on what it means to see Lehner reach this milestone.

"It has meant everything to me to play alongside her," Todor said. "I feel like freshman year we got really close, and just always having her by my side, and getting to see her accomplish those goals that she was so excited to try to do freshman year [is so exciting]."

Not only has Lehner grown into her athletic ability, but as she continues to excel in her senior year, she has also become a leading presence for the team.

"She has become more of a leader [and] more confident," Hall said. "As a freshman coming in here, just trying to find your place, and she has developed into an awesome young lady [who's] open to helping the young ones be more vocal. She's just been a joy to coach."

Breaking the all-time hits record was just another chapter in Lehner's career. The hometown hero will be closing out her career as a Bulldog at the end of the season, as the team looks forward to the Big East championships.

With Lehner playing her final games with the team this spring, the senior embraces the end of a journey.

"I've loved all four years here," Lehner said. "It's crazy that we're all about to leave the program. It's just been really nice to have such a great group of girls to play with every year, and I wouldn't have wanted to play anywhere else."



Photo by Bryan Malkowski.

OVERTIME

Butler vs. Xavier is missing the qualities of a real rivalry

Owen Priscott
Staff Reporter
opriscott@butler.edu

A sold-out crowd packed Hinkle Fieldhouse on Feb. 21 as Butler hosted Xavier, with the Dawg Pound roaring from tipoff to the final buzzer. The atmosphere itself carried all the usual signs of a classic college basketball rivalry — energy, emotion and postseason-like intensity. However, beyond the passion and the sold-out seats, the question remains: why is this matchup labeled a rivalry when the grounds behind that label still feel undetermined?

To give some background, when Butler joined the Big East in 2013, matchups with Xavier were quickly framed as a natural, regional rivalry. Both are small, private Midwestern universities, sharing similar basketball identities and are just a two-hour trip down Interstate 74 from each other. In fact, the schools were reunited from their days in the Midwestern City Conference — now the Horizon League — together from 1979-95.

Now in a power conference, Butler had no reason to continue to market former Horizon League rivalries like Loyola Chicago, Wright State and Milwaukee.

Yet, more than a decade later, the rivalry label feels more promotional than authentic.

Think of the best rivalries in college basketball: Duke vs. North Carolina, Louisville vs. Kentucky and even Indiana vs. Purdue. Those rivalries are built on mutual intensity and emotional investment — elements that have been absent or uneven in the case of Butler and Xavier.

For some fans, the rivalry is real — just not in its current state.

A large Butler fan known on X as Butler Basketball Guru — who also co-hosts The Bulldog Bark Podcast — said the intensity depends heavily on generation. He pointed to the 2009 "water fountain game" as a flashpoint that fueled hate for fans who experienced both programs at their respective peaks.

"If two fan bases don't like each other, that's what makes a rivalry," Guru said. "[Xavier fans] can call us 'little brother' all they want, but they still don't like us, and we don't like them."

That perspective, however, comes with nuance. Xavier's identity is long tied to its city. The Crosstown Shootout against the University of Cincinnati is a rivalry embedded within one city — with just three miles between campuses — and is layered with decades of history. Butler does not have that equivalent.

Ian Krueger, a senior finance major and vice president of operations for Dawg Pound, laid out the reality for Butler fans.

"[It is a rivalry] because having a rival is important," Krueger said. "Xavier has a natural rival in Cincinnati. We don't have one, and we need one."

Krueger described the Xavier matchup as consistently one of the most meaningful home games on the schedule, even with ranked opponents and strong out-of-conference foes coming to Hinkle Fieldhouse.

Nolan Hamilton, a senior sports media and strategic communication double major and president of Dawg Pound, pointed to attendance as evidence.

"There's a reason there has been one sellout this year, and it was Xavier," Hamilton said.

Still, both acknowledged that the rivalry is complicated — particularly due to Butler's on-court struggles in recent years. When performance dips, so does the weight of any matchup.

"If your basketball team sucks, the games lose value," Krueger said. "But I think it's pretty hard for [the Xavier game] to lose as much value."

Competitive balance remains the missing piece of the puzzle. When the two teams met on Feb. 21, Butler held a 14-13 record, while Xavier was right at .500 at 13-13. In recent seasons, however, the trajectories of the two programs have not always mirrored one another — particularly in March.

The all-time numbers further complicate the rivalry narrative. Xavier holds a commanding 50-27 advantage in the series, a gap that dismisses any idea of sustained back-and-forth between the schools. While individual games have carried intensity — like the "water fountain game" and Butler's 2023 upset and court storm — the broader numbers tell a story of Musketeer control.

While Butler has struggled to regain a consistent footing in the Big East, Xavier has remained relevant on the national stage, including multiple NCAA tournament appearances over the past five years — even earning a three seed in the 2023 tournament.

In some corners of Xavier's fan base, that gap has turned into open dismissal. For Muskie fans, Butler has begun to feel less like a measuring stick and more like just another conference opponent on the schedule — especially in years when the Musketeers have larger aspirations than the Dawgs.



Butler and Xavier split their 2025-26 season series 1-1. ***Photo by Andrew Buckley.***

A Xavier fan on X who goes by RealKYMuskie wrote, "It could be a matter of life or death, and Butler fans would choose death over accepting the fact that Xavier-Butler isn't a rivalry. We don't care about you. Butler is, quite literally, one of the least attractive home games for us in conference. No one gets excited for Butler."

Former Xavier guard Edmond Sumner echoed a similar feeling.

"What's the beef with Butler?" Sumner wrote on X. "I never understood that one. Asked a couple of Butler guys I'm cool with and they didn't really know either. I don't know, it always felt like a forced rivalry. It was always hostile in Hinkle."

The comments reflect what many Xavier fans describe as a "little brother" dynamic — one side insisting the rivalry is real, the other downplaying it.

Rivalries are at their strongest when both sides have something tangible to play for.

Butler Guru acknowledged that reality, even while defending the rivalry.

"If the teams are good, it will go right back [to being a relevant rivalry]," Guru said. "Rivalries aren't fun when the teams just aren't good, you're playing for nothing other than pride."

In other words, animosity alone is not enough. Stakes matter. Games in late February that impact conference seeding or NCAA tournament résumés carry different weight than games between two programs currently on the College Basketball Crown bubble.

Krueger echoed that sentiment from a student's perspective.

"I think both teams need sustained success," Krueger said. "Maybe a track record of splitting [games]."

Hamilton pointed to the coaching carousel as something that could spark a fire between the two schools.

"[Xavier is] where [Butler head coach Thad] Matta coached before," Hamilton said. "Butler and Xavier are also the same schools, pretty much, just in different cities."

Another coach in that conversation is current Miami Ohio coach Travis Steele, a Butler graduate who was head man at Xavier from 2018-22.

Until the aforementioned sustained success happens, the buy-in will continue to feel uneven. Butler students may circle the Xavier game on the calendar. Dawg Pound may pack Hinkle Fieldhouse. But if one — or both — of the schools are centered on rebuilding, the emotional stakes will never fully align, simply due to Butler being what Guru described as a "1B" rival to Xavier.

That does not mean this matchup lacks tension. It does not mean there is no history. It simply means that in its current state, Butler and Xavier resembles a rivalry more in marketing than in practice.

In college basketball, perception can only carry a rivalry so far before results have to match it.

Thad Matta should not be fired... yet

Butler's struggles result in questioning Matta's future

OVERTIME



Thad Matta's ability to coach has been up for debate all season. ***Photo by Andrew Buckley.***

Elliot Z. Muehlhausen
Staff Reporter
emuehlhausen@butler.edu

Men's basketball head coach Thad Matta has been on the hot seat since a six-game losing streak ensued from late January to mid-February. Butler broke the losing streak with a win against Georgetown, giving Matta his 500th career win.

Matta joined the Butler coaching staff in 2022, having last coached in 2017 with Ohio State. Matta got his head coaching start with Butler in 2000, parting for Xavier a season later. After three years with the Musketeers, Matta left for Ohio State, where he spent 13 seasons and became the winningest coach in Buckeye history.

Upon his return, Matta has not been able to find this success at Butler. In the last three seasons, Matta has yet to bring the Bulldogs to the NCAA tournament, only reaching the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) in 2024. The struggle can be seen by the attendance of fans, with many games not filling up the student section.

Although Matta has struggled, he still deserves some grace. The Butler legend has succeeded in the past, and deserves at least one more season to prove he still has it.

Jack Beres, a first-year sports media major, does not consider the season to be a disappointment, but he did find it underwhelming. Beres does not want Butler to be stuck in mediocrity like the other sports teams he supports, so he is ready for a change at head coach.

"I expected mediocrity," Beres said. "I didn't expect them [to make] the tournament. I expected them to be an NIT team, so maybe [they] underachieved slightly."

Beres thinks that two of the biggest factors in Butler's struggle are finances and atmosphere.

"The NIL money, especially being last in the [Big East], definitely hurt [Butler's success]," Beres said. "Not enough people are going to games, too. When [the players] don't have people cheering for them, you can't get momentum in games."

Max Haley, a sophomore strategic communication and sports media double major, has been to almost every home game this year. Haley thinks that Matta should not hold all of the responsibility for Butler's struggles.

"I think [the responsibility is] 50-50," Haley said. "It can only be so much on a coach. At the end of the day, it is down to the players to make the shots, make the right passes [and] play the right defense."

All basketball programs face injuries, and Butler has not fallen short of them. The impact of injuries — something Matta can not control — is evident in the win column.

The Bulldogs started hot, going 5-1 in their first six games, with an impressive win over now-No. 13 Virginia, and only losing an away game to top-40 team SMU by two points. This shows that Matta was doing something right.

Butler's first big injury struck when graduate guard Jalen Jackson re-aggravated an ankle injury and had to sit out the rest of the season.

Jackson's impact can not go unnoticed, averaging 9.5 points per game and 3.8 assists per game, and shot 40% from three before his injury. However, it is not just Jackson's individual stats that are worth pointing out.

The Dawg's most active three-point shooters, junior guard Finley Bizjack, redshirt sophomore forward Jamie Kaiser Jr. and sophomore guard Evan Haywood saw a substantial difference in their three-point shooting in games without Jackson. Bizjack went from a 42.1% three-point shooter with Jackson to a 34.2% shooter without him. Kaiser saw a 12% drop, and Haywood saw a 14% dip.

If Jackson had been able to remain healthy and play the rest of the season, it likely would have looked a lot different. After his injury, Jackson announced he would return for another season.

Read the full story on thebutlercollegian.com

TATTOO TALES

JM Brenner

The power of music reveals itself in ink

Harrison Pryor
Staff Reporter
hrpryor@butler.edu

"Tattoo Tales" is a series in which The Butler Collegian speaks with a Butler community member about their tattoos and the stories behind them.

Content warning: Mentions of self-harm.

Music saves people. Whether it is a peppy pop bop to lift one's spirits or emotionally driven melancholy tunes to relate to, music is always there for everyone. This is especially true for sophomore strategic communication major JM Brenner, whose growing collection of tattoos symbolize albums and artists that have strengthened his love for life. Brenner spoke with The Butler Collegian about what each tattoo means both to the musicians and himself.

THE BUTLER COLLEGIAN: You have some cool tattoos to show off. What have you got?

JM BRENNER: I've got one Mac Miller tattoo [that] says, "I love life," [and] "Thank you," three times — it's his posthumous album. I've also got a butterfly. It's a self-harm awareness tattoo. I've got "blond" by Frank Ocean; that's my favorite album of all time, [and it] just means a lot to me. I've got one on my chest as well. It's a Daniel Caesar tattoo from "Pilgrim's Paradise", which is his 2015 [EP].

TBC: You have a lot of music-based tattoos. Does music have a big impact on your life?

JMB: Oh, it absolutely does. It's gotten me through the worst times of my life, honestly. I put on a pair of headphones and just listen. It's the best thing in the world. I feel like music is a universal language. I've been playing the drums since I was a little kid, and I've got an ear for it, so it's a big thing for me.

TBC: Starting with the first tattoo you mentioned — the Mac Miller one — how do you think that album and artist specifically impacted your life?

JMB: Well, Mac struggled with substance abuse for a long time in his life, and I've struggled with things like that as well, especially mental health issues. He just spoke to me through his music. This album specifically means a lot to me because of the way he talks about life, especially because of [the album being] posthumous. It means a lot to me because I don't want to die; I want to celebrate my life as much as I can.

TBC: Can you explain the Frank Ocean tattoo that says "blond"?

JMB: There's two separate versions of the album [title]: "blond" with no "e" [on the cover] and "Blonde" with an "e" on it [for the title]. The album means the most to me out of any album ever. It's arguably one of the greatest albums of all time. Apple Music ranked it [as] number five on its top 100 list. It's split up perfectly into two parts. It has some great themes and talks about the college experience a little bit as well. I got all four [of my tattoos] on my birthday [over] two separate years, and this one just spoke to me. I've always had a lot of passion for Frank Ocean as well. He's just a great artist; he's spoken to me through his music and I feel like those types of artists are the ones that mean the most to me. If I can live my life through music, then I feel like my life gets a lot better. I put my faith in the music, if that makes sense.

TBC: Can you tell us more about your chest tattoo and what it means?

JMB: [Daniel Caesar's] album [cover] is representative of him falling off of a building and just letting himself go, and that's what I've embodied in my life over the last year or so: Letting myself fall to rock bottom and then building myself up from there. This is the only tattoo on my left side because I've always felt like I've been dominant on my right side, but I wanted this to display the care I have for my entire body and what I want to do with it.

TBC: Could you talk a bit about the butterfly?

JMB: This is supposed to represent where you have self-harmed in the past, and it's supposed to represent flying away. The butterfly represents



JM Brenner explains the significance of music and how it has affected his choice in tattoos. ***Photo by Drew Kosmak.***

healing, essentially. I wanted to get this one to almost override the marks that I've put on myself. This one means the most to me for sure, because it's representative of my mental health journey the most. I'm really thankful for this tattoo. It's faded, and it's messed up, but that represents a little bit of me too, because I'm not perfect [either], and I know that. [The "I Love Life, Thank You"] one has some issues as well, but that's on purpose by Mac Miller himself. These all mean a lot to me. They're not perfect, but that's not who I am either, so they're pretty 'me'. It's funny, I actually got them at pretty bad points in my life, and I didn't think they meant a lot to me, but as I came back into my own personality, my own self, they started to mean more to me. Now it's a pathway to my life.

TBC: You mentioned you got these done on your birthdays. Were they gifts or just things you did on your own, and what ages were you when you got them?

JMB: They were gifts. My parents all got fake tattoos to show me love and [support] because they were very anti-tattoo for a long time, and I [am] the first and only person in my family to get tattoos. [I] grew up kind of sheltered. I was 18 [for the first pair] and I [had just] turned 19 when I got my second one. I had to wait until I was an adult, but I'm glad I waited because I don't think that a lot of things meant a lot to me before I [turned 18].

TBC: Do you have any future tattoo plans?

JMB: I want to get patchwork on my entire arm and I want to build it out musically as well. I want to get a musical staff somewhere, and I also want to get something about drums somewhere. I want to fill my upper body with tattoos but leave my left side a little bit more open, to represent again [that my right hand] is my strong hand. This is what I do everything with, and my left hand is representative of what I've lost in my life, so it's just going to stay empty.

TBC: Do you have any specific ones that you are looking at?

JMB: I haven't looked that hard, [but] my birthday is coming up soon, so I may see if I can get one in New York … I have a few albums in mind that I would definitely get. I would maybe get Frank Ocean's other album, "channel ORANGE", and maybe an album called "Either/Or" by Elliott Smith as well.

Arts and Events Center welcomed Shen Yun amid abuse allegations

Ana Dollard
Assistant Cutlure Editor
adollard@butler.edu

On Feb. 21 and Feb. 22, a dance group known as Shen Yun Performing Arts performed at Clowes Memorial Hall.

With 18 different pieces, Shen Yun promises to tell the story of a "China before communism" through the art of traditional Chinese dance and music. Audiences are mesmerized each year by the demonstration of artistry and power.

Jacqueline Harbor, an Indianapolis resident, was drawn by the immense talent the performers and musicians demonstrated.

"The athleticism, performance and the music is awesome," Harbor said. "I love the effect where they jump in and out of the screen. That special effect is really fun."

Other returning attendees felt the intricate storyline meshed with the beauty of the performance created an entrancing effect on its viewers.

David Gerichs, a resident of Carmel, explained his thoughts on this years' performance.

"I've been one time before," Gerichs said. "It's very stunning and pretty to watch. I enjoyed the story more this time than I did the first [time I saw it]."

What most attendees do not realize, however, is that behind the elegant costumes and imaginative dances lie troubling allegations of abuse and exploitation within the company. Two different lawsuits and investigations by major news outlets extensively document the ongoing issue.

A history of exploitation

In an investigative piece, the New York Times interviewed 25 former Shen Yun performers and instructors who spoke about their experiences within the group. Many said they endured untreated injuries from the company and were discouraged from seeking medical care by their instructors.

Shen Yun is run by the Falun Gong religious movement, a spiritual discipline founded in the early '90s by Li Hongzhi. The movement has been banned and outlawed in China, and the group claims in its print program that it has endured harassment and persecution from a country that has "tried to destroy these traditions." While the main tenets of Falun Gong are truthfulness, compassion and forbearance, the group also discourages the use of medicine in its teachings.

The Times interviewed Kate Huang, a dancer who dropped out of school at age 11 to join Fei Tian Academy of the Arts, the compound where Shen Yun dancers are trained.

Huang described the intense pressure to ignore medical issues in order to prove herself as faithful to the Falun Gong practice.

"If I ask for the hospital, I will be labeled as not a fervent believer," Huang said in the interview. "I didn't want to stick out or become a target of everyone."

In addition to its denial of medical treatment, Falun Gong encourages its followers to spread the word of Shen Yun to save the world from an impending apocalypse.

Using the guise of dance, performers are encouraged to work 15-hour days, often with little to no pay. In addition, many of the performers are children of Falun Gong practitioners who say they were coerced into the dance group. According to a lawsuit filed by two former dancers, child workers were often exploited and made no more than $500 a month for their labor.

Does Shen Yun violate Butler policies?

According to the university's Rules of Conduct, Butler students are prohibited from any

"physical, mental, or verbal abuse of any person or any conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any such person."

Shen Yun, however, was permitted to perform on Butler's campus, despite a well-documented history of abuse and exploitation allegations.

The expectation of good conduct does not solely apply to Butler students — the university holds guests of students responsible for their conduct as well. The university's statement on the standard of conduct emphasizes that "because the actions of guests also affect members of the Butler community, students assume responsibility for those they host."

However, it seems that Butler's guests, such as those invited to perform at the Butler Arts and Events Center, are exempt from this policy. Performances of Shen Yun have been documented at Clowes as early as 2014, and public knowledge of investigations into the show's allegations of exploitative practices began surfacing in 2024.

Senior biochemistry major Kate Thuma attended the performance but was unaware of the abuse allegations until researching the group following the event. She emphasized the importance of thorough decision-making for selecting shows to present at Butler.

"If there are abuse allegations, it might be wise to steer clear of hosting them at our campus," Thuma said. "Thoughts should [definitely] be put into that."

Butler Arts and Events Center did not respond for comments by the time of publication.

Intense marketing

In 2023, Shen Yun amassed a staggering $266 million in revenue from ticket sales. How does a show with such an intense and dark collection of allegations maintain its popularity?

Falun Gong followers are encouraged to help sell tickets to Shen Yun with the understanding that the performance will save viewers from a coming apocalypse by educating them on its spiritual practices. In addition to this method of local engagement, Li encourages his followers to give up their life savings to support his luxurious lifestyle.

One follower, who worked unpaid for years as a top aide to Li gave the organization her life savings before dying of late-stage kidney cancer. The cancer was left untreated, as Falun Gong encourages meditation as a way to rid the body of "bad karma" that causes illness.

The pull of a beautiful performance with widespread marketing may be irresistible to some. When knowledge surfaces of shocking allegations, however, the responsibility of a university to investigate the shows that visit its campus becomes increasingly valuable. Whether Shen Yun will return to campus for another year of performance is yet to be seen.

Exploring belonging through 'Si Pudiera Quedarme'

The Compass Center wraps up film series with piece on immigration and family

Maddy Broderick
Culture Editor
mbroderick@butler.edu

On March 4 at 7 p.m. in the Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall, The Compass Center (TCC) will host its final New View Film Series event of the year, screening "Si Pudiera Quedarme", which translates to "If I Could Stay". Attendance is free, with a BCR credit available and no ticket required.

The film is based on a true story and centers around two Latina women who do everything they can to keep their families together amidst the threat of deportation. Over the course of five years, the film follows Jeanette Vizguerra and Ingrid Encalada Latorre as they seek refuge inside churches, entering sanctuary while they fight for legal status.

Each year, TCC partners with the Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC) on the project. The series aims to encourage audiences to look beyond their daily lives and engage with fresh perspectives through four thought-provoking films. Designed to deepen appreciation for differences and strengthen respect across communities, the program draws on themes of interfaith understanding, diversity, social justice and belonging.

As conversations about identity and community become increasingly vital, the theme of belonging has taken on added importance. Films like these offer students and community members a chance to confront issues that often feel distant, even though they shape the lived experiences of many individuals around them.

TCC and the CIC chose four films revolving around the overarching theme of belonging, including "Word is Bond", "An American Pickle", "Stranger at the Gate" and finally "Si Pudiera Quedarme". Other than "Word is Bond", each of these features has to do with immigration and displacement — topics that are extremely relevant to today's current political and economic climate.

David Love, the Business Manager at the CIC and committee member at TCC, explained that the selection process for the films begins as early as the spring of the previous school year, with a few people from both CIC and Butler making the final decisions.

"When we were discussing which films to choose at the end of last school year, I was the one that brought ['Si Pudiera Quedarme'] up, because I get direct emails from Good Docs, and this one was one of the films that they mentioned in their emails," Love said.



"Si Pudiera Quedarme" is a timely film that explores themes of community, justice and transformation. ***Photo courtesy of Butler Arts and Events Center.***

Love is deeply involved with St. Monica Catholic Church and mentioned that his experiences traveling and working with different communities led him to suggest "Si Pudiera Quedarme" as one of the films for the series this year.

"[The film] resonated with me because at St. Monica, we have a very large Hispanic population within our parish and I work with people from a lot of Spanish-speaking countries," Love said. "I've also visited a few of the countries. So, in a way, I've been the immigrant. I never stayed for more than a couple of months, but I have a very tiny feeling of what it's like to be in their shoes."

For people like Love, this personal proximity further stresses why stories of sanctuary and immigration matter beyond policy debates. Many Indianapolis residents navigate questions of status, safety and belonging every day, and bringing these narratives onto a campus setting creates space for the community to encounter diverse experiences.

Not only do attendees have the opportunity to view a film they otherwise might not be able to see, but engaging discussions with organizations or community members directly follow the screening. Depending on whether the CIC or TCC introduces the film to the committee, campus communities or even ensembles will lead insightful conversations. After the screening of "Si Pudiera Quedarme", a handful of community members will ask the audience to participate in a thoughtful discussion on immigration and other various themes covered in the film.

Derek Reid, a professor of dance and associate dean of inclusion, diversity, equity and access, emphasized the importance of the post-viewing discussion, specifically for "Si Pudiera Quedarme."

"I think the film itself will spark conversation about immigration [and] tactics used to avoid deportation, [and] having a conversation about those things is what you should be doing on a college campus," Reid said. "The opportunity to show a movie that sparks conversation is always the goal, and this seemed like a good one in light of how things are transpiring now ... I think that this is an event that is worthy of conversation by faculty, students and the community."

Love also explained how this film will hopefully encourage viewers to be more empathetic toward individuals from different communities.

"[The film] is something that speaks to us as not just Catholics, but [as] Christians or even just people of goodwill," Love said. "To really and truly love your neighbor, you have to see them as a person, not just as some sort of faceless other, and that's something that our country needs a lot of right now … we need to ask [ourselves], 'what do we do from here? How do we help each other?' And hopefully this film … is a small step, at least in this area, that will help [individuals] see each other more humanely."

As the New View Film Series concludes for the year, "Si Pudiera Quedarme" invites viewers to reflect on realities faced by families navigating the immigration system. In a time where it remains central to national conversation, the screening and post-film discussion create an opportunity to address these issues through the lens of lived experiences rather than news headlines.

Celebrity deaths and disease awareness

How to support ALS victims like Eric Dane

Samuel Demis
Staff Reporter
sademis@butler.edu

Eric Dane, who is known for his performances in ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" and HBO's "Euphoria", has passed away at the age of 53 after a hard-fought battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Dane was famous for his role as the heartthrob Dr. Mark Sloan, nicknamed "McSteamy" on "Grey's Anatomy". The character, a plastic surgeon, was notable for his development from a comic-relief womanizer to a caring and close friend.

Sophomore biology major Hannah Bokal recalls enjoying his role on the show.

"My dad and I loved watching 'Grey's Anatomy', so I was very familiar with [Dane] … [and] his storyline was one of my favorites," Bokal said. "I got a text saying 'McSteamy' had died … and I was shocked because it happened so unexpectedly."

Dane passed away just 10 months after publicly revealing his condition.

ALS is a disease with no cure. As it progresses, neurons in the brain and spine are inhibited, leading to loss of motor function and respiratory failure. Its cause is unknown and 10% of cases are purely genetic.

Sophomore health sciences major Annie Tripple has observed these effects firsthand.

"I have spent a lot of time volunteering in nursing homes, and I have definitely seen [ALS] there," Tripple said. "It does not matter if you really know the person; it is just a hard thing to see [anyone] struggle with."

When diagnosed with a disease that is — for all intents and purposes — a death sentence, it can be incredibly difficult to carry on. To those affected, the support of family and a strong community can be extremely impactful.

Fortunately, Butler's Phi Delta Theta fraternity helps provide that community through their philanthropy partnership with Live Like Lou. The organization connects the fraternity to families with ALS in order to assist them in their time of need, as well as donating scientific grants to further research and search for a cure.

DJ Dorchak, a sophomore computer science major and the service chairman of Phi Delta Theta, has helped serve a family impacted by ALS.



Eric Dane passed away at 53 due to ALS-related respiratory failure. ***Photo courtesy of Vanity Fair.***

"For our chapter, we have two families that we serve currently," Dorchack said. "Recently, with the snowstorms, we went to one of our families' houses and shoveled their driveway, because [they use wheelchairs due to ALS Symptoms] … We are trying to [help] fight the battle in as many forms as we can."

As awful as it is when a well-liked personality suffers from a deadly illness, that event often becomes a catalyst for further awareness and research.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research has raised over $185 million for research following the actor's diagnosis. After a kidney transplant, actor George Lopez started his own foundation to raise awareness for kidney disease. Even ALS itself was formerly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease after the professional baseball player was diagnosed with it.

Ethan Coon, a junior history and theater double major and Phi Delta Theta philanthropy chair, believes Dane's story could further ALS awareness.

"It sucks to say it, but ALS is not one of the 'popular' diseases," Coon said. "Everybody knows about cancer … so people are trying to fight to find a cure. ALS is not one that people usually look for, and that is why it's overwhelmingly underfunded. Having high-profile names … definitely does raise more awareness."

Hopefully, the passing of Eric Dane will inspire more awareness of ALS and be the push people need to contribute to the fight for a cure.

Phi Delta Theta will be hosting the Blue Tie Gala at Robertson Hall on Saturday, March 28 at 6 p.m. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Live Like Lou foundation.

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Gen Z is redefining thrifting

Why we prefer thrifting over retail

Ava Roemer
Opinion Columnist
aaroemer@butler.edu



We are changing the way society views thrifting. ***Graphic by Lily Upadhyay.***

Growing up, the word "thrifting" always had a negative connotation in my mind. I thought it just meant old and used, therefore undesirable. However, recently, society has taken a bold stand with thrift fashion. For a lot of us, clothing that is old and used is precisely what we're interested in shopping for these days.

It surprises me when my mom points out a piece of clothing or an accessory I wear and says, "Hey, that looks just like what I wore when I was your age." If we are in 2026, how come we are wearing what our parents wore in the '90s?

The whole point of trends is that they're consistently changing over time. According to Cambridge University, the word "trend" is actually defined as a change in the way people think about a specific thing. In the context of fashion trends, society has continued to develop new ideas, thoughts and opinions on how we dress.

A more specific definition Cambridge University provides is, "a new development in clothing, makeup, etc." This definition implies that a trend is always a positive occurrence, which I agree with.

Even though fashion trends are basically defined as changing in an upward direction, today we are seeing it go backward. Thrifting has turned into a hobby for us to relax with, or a social event to partake in with our friends. What was once something we did for necessity, we now do just for fun.

Lately I've been curious as to why young adults are choosing to dress second-hand, thrifted and used fashion, as opposed to just buying it new.

I understand that many of us do not have the means to shop for fashion that is brand new. Goodwill, The Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity Restore are popular non-profit companies that are accessible resources to shop for lower-priced fashion.

The reality is that modern fashion is becoming irrelevant because we are choosing to thrift instead of indulging in fast-fashion or retail shopping. For Gen Z specifically, thrifting is a way to save money, regain a sense of nostalgia from younger years and create community.

Sophomore psychology major Rachel Joyce explained how thrift shopping creates a sense of self-brand that is harder to depict with retail clothing.

"I like building my own label," Joyce said. "Instead of following a major brand, or where the money is, or where the beauty standards are, having the freedom to build your own label, especially through clothing that has already been loved and lived in, is perfect."

It is a lot easier to build your own unique style when looking in a store where literally everything is one-of-a-kind. At places like Goodwill, you rarely find two of the same pieces at the same store location, which makes it special and more personal to your own style.

Mariah Rivera, a first-year sociology and criminology combined major, expressed how thrifting has become an outlet for her to express her truest self.

"When I got to high school, it was sort of a way to express myself, because I went to a really big high school with 2,000 plus people," Rivera said. "It was a rebellion to my community because it's more conservative. It was also a way to express myself in ways that I couldn't do in other places."

I had never thought of thrifting being an outlet for this idea of rebellion until after my conversation with Rivera. There was no doubt that it helps people save money, provided community and promoted sustainability. Because it makes a way to personalize your style to your own specific preferences, it also gives you that sense of self representation and expression. In some cases, that might look like something your community does not agree with.

This idea of fast fashion has especially sparked since social media has become so prevalent to our society. With apps like Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube, we are seeing new trends before the previous ones have even reached the entire web. With this being the cast, it is difficult to financially and socially keep up with the fashion trends at hand, hence fast-fashion.

Sophomore accounting major Alvin Weng explained how social media has really impacted fashion trends and how that looks different to past decades.

"With social media, trends come and go much quicker than they did," Weng said. "They're called the '70s, '80s and '90s, because it was that decade where there was a specific style to it. Now we have these micro trends where something's popular for three months and then it just pivots to something else, completely different."

The idea of our generation's modern fashion, while exciting and new, is just not a realistic lifestyle. Especially for college students, keeping up with the latest trends is not ideal because they change within a month.

Thrifting is a great resource for broke college students who need new clothes to express the new people we are becoming. It is affordable, practical and just a fun environment to be in. With modern fashion becoming more and more irrelevant, we are seeing more opportunities to recreate nostalgia, express our own brand and create a community that is accessible to everyone.

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The Rhode to cheaper makeup

Is celebrity branded makeup a scam?

Charlotte Hargrove
Opinion Columnist
chargrove@butler.edu

The beauty industry is huge, including customers of all ages and identities. What makes a specific makeup or beauty brand so appealing: the quality or the person behind the brand? Well, with more and more celebrities realizing the profit connected to the beauty industry, they are coming out with their own brands. The countless options of beauty brands are becoming overwhelming. From my personal experience, some of these celebrity-run brands are "overhyped" and not worth the price tags — but there are a few worth the money.

Hailey Bieber's brand Rhode is one of the brands worth the hype. With natural ingredients and skin-healthy products, Rhode proves that some celebrities might just know what they are doing.

Sophomore marketing major Megan Dang described her experience with Rhode beauty.

"I like how whenever [Hailey Bieber] uses the product on her skin I could see the difference," Dang said. "Even if I don't really know her [cosmetic past], whenever I tested [the products] on myself it gave me the exact same outcome as it did for her."

One other brand that students note is worth it is Selena Gomez's beauty brand Rare Beauty. While very popular among young adults, the brand focuses on feeling good about the beauty you come with.

First-year journalism major Desiree Stubbs noted her loyalty to the brand.

"I'm so loyal to Rare Beauty that I haven't really tried any other [celebrity brands]." Stubbs said.

First-year criminology and psychology combined major Genesis Washington discussed her views on the quality of celebrity products.

"I feel like a lot of [celebrity brands] do give out quality stuff," Washington said. "They're not trying to cheat you out with the packaging, that's a big thing for me."

While there are definitely a good amount of celebrity beauty brands that live up to the name there are also some that do not. Kylie Cosmetics is one of those brands. With Kylie Jenner's marketing surrounding herself, the claims of the quality of the product tend to go out the window. With this Jenner having thousands of dollars worth of plastic surgery and botox, marketing the product on her seems unrealistic, and unrelatable to the consumer.

"I'm not a huge fan of Kylie Cosmetics," Dang said. "I just feel like she got so much work done. I don't know if I fully trust [the brand]."

When it comes to beauty brands as a whole, social media plays a large role in advertising and enticing consumers to buy their products. Through social media, I believe that beauty consumers would be extremely less likely to buy from a specific brand if it weren't for the exaggerated social media marketing.

"I think [social media] has a lot to do with [willingness to buy a product]," Stubbs said. "There's this [influencer] on TikTok who uses [Fenty beauty products] and she has the same textured hair as me and so I think seeing how it works with her hair influences me to buy it."

While beauty products are one of the biggest leaders in female overconsumption, needing a range of products feels like an addition to a collection.

"I have too many lip glosses and blushes," Washington said. "I like to buy liquid and powder [blushes] and I [know] that it's just so unnecessary, but I just have to have it."

While I definitely consume a large amount of beauty products, the importance of being able to point out quality brands versus overhyped brands plays a huge role. So next time you are influenced by a product, pay for the quality, not the person behind the marketing scheme.



Celebrities crushing in the beauty industry, or crushing the beauty industry? ***Graphic by Charlotte Hargrove.***