



photo submitted

Daniel finishes the mile run at the Special Olympics at Stokes Stadium on Saturday. Daniel finished the mile in less than eight minutes. More than 200 athletes competed in the day's events.

Olympians win big

Volunteers spend afternoon making annual event a big success for athletes, fans

Josh Flint
Staff Reporter

Many Truman students took Saturday to help out with the Special Olympics.

Junior Lauren Schoenky volunteered with members of her social sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha. Schoenky said the sorority had about 50 women participate and she thought herself fortunate to help with the event.

"I did not know what to expect," Schoenky said. "It was kind of emotional because you realize how grateful you are."

Schoenky was paired with Tammy, one of the Monroe City Roadrunner athletes. Schoenky said it was a wonderful experience to see Tammy compete in the different sporting events.

"The most rewarding thing was being there and seeing them realize that they can do the same things we can do," Schoenky said.

She said Tammy did very well in all her events.

"She got first place in all the events she did, which included the softball throw, long jump and 100-meter run,"

Schoenky said.

Junior Katie Lang, a member of social sorority Sigma Kappa, also helped out with the Special Olympics. Lang said Sigma Kappa was in charge of the standing and running jump.

Lang said 34 members of her sorority ran the jumping events from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. She agreed that the participants made the experience a lot of fun.

"It was really neat seeing the athletes get excited," Lang said. "It was also nice to do something so productive."

Lang said the athletes ranged from eight to 40 years of age, and she said they were grouped by age.

Senior Neil Meredith, a member of coed national service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, said he dropped by to see some of his friends, but he decided to help out after meeting one of the athletes.

"I wasn't originally signed up, but I met Larry and ended up staying," Meredith said.

He said Larry had three other buddies helping him out at the event.

"We ran around and made sure he was at all of his events," Meredith said. "We also watched him compete and cheered him on."

Meredith said Larry did well in the competition.

"He took third in the standing long

jump and the 200-meter run and fourth in the softball throw," Meredith said.

After he started helping out, Meredith said he really had a hard time leaving.

"I wasn't planning on staying but really enjoyed being there and ended up staying for three to four hours," Meredith said.

Junior Staci Imes coordinated the day's events with the organization Student Council for Exceptional Children.

She said more than 200 athletes from the northeast area competed Saturday, and athletes came from Macon, Schuyler and Linn Counties.

She said Truman has hosted the Spring Track and Field Events for more years than she has gone to school here.

Imes said Truman students have always been responsive to volunteering at the event, and in the past, about 400 to 600 students have helped out. She said this year was at the lower end of the spectrum, but they still had about 300 to 400 volunteers.

She said everything went smoothly Saturday and everyone had a good time.

"From the perspective of volunteers, athletes and coaches, everything went perfectly," Imes said.

— Mandy Sheets contributed to this story

Anniversary of war finds campus aware

Jeff Hutchinson
for the Index

Although a year has passed since the beginning of the war in Iraq, it remains on the minds of many people.

Senior nontraditional student Mary Ann MacCombie said she thinks about her son all of the time because of the war.

"Of course I worry about him constantly," she said.

MacCombie is one of many whose life is affected by the war in Iraq. Her son, Sgt. Ryan Campbell, is a member of the United States Army stationed with the first Armored Division in Baghdad, Iraq. He also is a 2001 Truman graduate.

The war has changed Sgt. Campbell's life drastically.

"Every day is lived with the continuous strain of wondering whether you will make it to the next," Campbell said in an e-mail interview from Baghdad. "Attacks are completely random, and it is impossible to impossibly defend yourself 24 hours a day."

Campbell said that the war also has forced him to change as a person.

"Before I went home for the R and R

(rest and relaxation) program, I had not worn civilian clothing for 10 months," Campbell said. "You begin to lose your sense of humanity, but at the same time, you are forced to be somebody you never thought you could be and to perform at a level that you could never have possibly attained before the experience."

The war is personal for his mother as well. Campbell has been fighting in Iraq for almost a year, and his involvement has altered her life greatly.

"It's a lot of stress," MacCombie said.

She said that for the first couple of months of the war, she did not have very much contact with Campbell. He called her when he first arrived in Kuwait, but she did not hear from him after that for a couple weeks. Now he has Internet access, and she is able to communicate with him more often.

"I immediately go online first thing in the morning to see if he is online, and we chat quite a bit," MacCombie said.

At the beginning of February, Campbell was able to come home for two weeks of rest and relaxation.

"It was a total surprise," MacCombie said. "He just showed up at the door. It was so exciting."

The war also has touched other students' lives as well.

"It affects us all in its own way," said senior Narissa Webber, president of the local chapter of Amnesty International. "Everyone knows somebody who's over there or knows somebody who knows somebody who's over there."

Many people spoke out against the war through protests and demonstrations last spring. Groups such as Amnesty International continue to openly speak out in opposition to the war this spring. The group organized a demonstration March 19 outside of Pickler Memorial Library.

"We wanted to have a balloon for everybody to give a sense to the campus about the scale of loss of human life that

occurred both to Iraqi civilians and to U.S. and coalition service people," Webber said.

At the time of the demonstration, 8,310 Iraqi civilians and 666 U.S. and Coalition service members had died in the war. The group presented red, white and blue balloons for the U.S. Coalition members who died and black balloons for the Iraqi civilians who died as a result of the war.

Webber said she thinks the demonstration affected people who walked by and saw it.

"I was ecstatic to see people noticing and wanting to read the signs to see what it was all about," Webber said. "I think students still care about this war."

Campbell said that when he first arrived in Baghdad about a month after the initial invasion, he was all for it.

"We had all been led to believe that Iraq posed a serious threat to America as well as its surrounding nations," he said. "We invaded expecting to find weapons of mass destruction and a much more prepared and well-trained Republican Guard waiting for us. It is now a year later, and alas, no weapons of mass destruction or any other real threat, for that matter."

Although he is in Baghdad, Campbell

said he is well aware of the support back home.

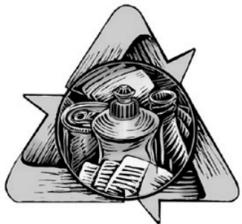
"The American support has been wonderful," Campbell said. "Though they may not support the invasion, most people support the soldiers 100 percent. Letters of support have come out here from every state, hundreds of them. The support is outstanding, and it helps all the soldiers out here keep going strong when otherwise they might fall."

Now that the war has hit the one-year mark, Webber said she thinks it's important to reflect on how the war affects people.

"I think that reflecting is a good thing," Webber said. "Not reflecting would be an admission that something was out of order. It is hard to look back at things you're ashamed of, but it is easy to look back at things and approach them honestly."

Campbell reflected on the importance of his fellow soldiers during his deployment in Iraq.

"I have learned that the support line in the military is invaluable," Campbell said. "Everybody leans on each other, and there is an unbreakable bond that is formed between men at war. It is the bond that keeps us strong and keeps us alive."



Celebrate Earth Day

Join the campus community for our upcoming Earth Day festivities!

April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			• Residence Hall Can Recycling Contest	• Residence Hall Can Recycling Contest	• Residence Hall Can Recycling Contest	• Residence Hall Can Recycling Contest
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
• Residence Hall Can Recycling Contest • Bear Creek clean up at 2 p.m. on the Mall.	• Residence Hall Can Recycling Contest • "Building Energy Efficiency," 12:30 p.m. SUB Alumni Room	• Residence Hall Can Recycling Contest • Night hike, 7 p.m. McClain parking lot	• Residence Hall Can Recycling Contest • "Yellowstone: Endangered Species Act for the Grizzly Bear," 5:30 p.m. SUB Alumni Room 21	EARTH DAY *	• Environmental Conference, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in VH 1000 • Downtown Earth Day Festival, 5 to 8 p.m. Courthouse lawn	• Environmental Conference
18	19	20		22	23	24

EARTH DAY (April 22) *

- 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in VH 1000 Environmental Conference - sponsored by GEO.
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Picnic on the Quad (Vegan sandwiches, garden vegetables, fruit salad, organic chips) - sponsored by Student Senate.
- 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Mall SUB displays: Composting project, Life in Bear Creek, University Recycling Center, ECO "Garbology," Environmental Studies minor, Sodexo beverage giveaway (bring your own container.), popcorn and snow cones.
- 1 to 3 p.m. Tree Treatment Project - sponsored by Beta Beta Beta.
- Sodexo recycle mugs and T-shirt giveaway - all Residence Hall cafeterias.
- 7 p.m. in VH 1000 "Eating with Environmental Wisdom" - sponsored by Sierra@Truman.
- 8:30 p.m. in Baldwin Hall Little Theatre Eco movie night, "Baraka."

Earth Day celebrations sponsored by:

Environmental Campus Organization (ECO), Environmental Advisory Committee, Graduate English Organization (GEO), Residential Living, Sierra@Truman, Sodexo, Student Senate and the University Recycling Center.