

Festivities raise cash for cause

More students donated and participated in this year's Homecoming

Amanda Boyle
Staff Reporter

Cowboy hats, plaid shirts and bingo-playing cows raised \$4,286.56 last week as Homecoming 2005, themed "Branded a Bulldog," took over.

Senior Peter Howe, president of Habitat for Humanity, said each year the Homecoming committee picks a different philanthropy to which the money earned from the week will be donated.

This year the committee chose Habitat for Humanity, which will use the money for the organization's sixth house in Kirksville.

"[Habitat] is something on campus, local, that people can relate to," said senior Marcie Kotteman, Homecoming chairwoman. "It's not helping ourselves, but it's affiliated with the University, and it goes to help the community, so I think that's why we chose it."

Last year's Homecoming, themed "Bulldogs Unleashed,"

raised \$3,593.90, said Amy Currier, committee adviser and coordinator for the Center for Student Involvement.

Kotteman said the changes in the "penny wars" this year might have generated more money than last year.

"[This year] people could write checks," she said. "If they wrote 'pennies' in the memo line, it would be counted as pennies, and if they wrote 'dollars,' it would be counted as dollars or silver. So, I think it helped people be a little more generous."

Money earned Saturday from the mechanical bull, the 5k run, the parade, the tailgate picnic and the football game, went to the Habitat for Humanity International's hurricane relief efforts in accordance with a nationwide event called "Make A Difference Day."

Howe said raffle ticket sales at the football game Saturday raised about \$340 for Habitat for Humanity International.

Senior Chris McKinney, public relations chairman for the Homecoming committee, said he thinks the theme, "Branded a Bulldog," was a great change from past Homecomings and enhanced the campuswide excitement about the week.

"It was a theme people could really ham up and play up."

Chris McKinney
Public Relations Chair
for the Homecoming
Committee



Freshman Dan DeWees rides a mechanical bull that was outside McClain Hall last week as part of Homecoming activities.

Ross Houston/Index

"Many students already have Western apparel," he said. "It was a theme people could really ham up and play up. Normally we seem to have really traditional Homecoming events, and this year we incorporated those with the theme. We really ran with the country theme, and students loved it."

Currier said she thinks Homecoming Week went smoothly, and the Western theme opened doors for a variety of different events.

Events included the annual Homecoming parade, pep rally, lip-synch competition and skits. Some traditional Homecoming events, such as the Ultimate Frisbee tournament and the Spades tournament, however, were replaced with themed events including cowboy games, a poker tournament, cowboy trivia and even a mechanical bull.

McKinney said one of the events he enjoyed was the cowboy games. He said the event was a relay race of sorts that began with a sack race mapped out with cones.

When the person competing in that part finished, he or she tagged a teammate who took part in a hands-free pie-eating contest. The last legs of the "race" were to use a slingshot to hit a can, and to rope a fake bull with a lasso.

Senior Laura Keck said she thinks the student body responded well to Homecoming, especially because of the new events.

She said numerous people voiced their pleasure with the event changes and were very happy with the week.

McKinney said he agreed, and turnout was great at most events.

"We worked really hard to get people who were not necessarily involved in organizations to be able to get involved in Homecoming," he said. "This is one of the reasons we had a large turnout. I just noticed a huge response from the community."

He said the committee tried to plan events that individuals as well as organizations could take advantage of, such as the mechanical bull that was placed outside McClain Hall by on Friday afternoon and Saturday.

Even though Currier said the week went well, she said two problems occurred. First, bad weather forced the committee to cancel the sand volleyball tournament and the memorial service.

The other problem was at the lip-synch event, where a number of people were able to enter

Baldwin Auditorium through a side door without tickets.

This resulted in about 30 ticket-holding students being turned away.

McKinney said the Homecoming committee planned the week and oversaw it from an administrative standpoint, but each involved organization was in charge of and ran its own event.

He also said work within the committee led to a great Homecoming Week.

"I think we had a very cohesive committee, and that showed in Homecoming," he said. "The theme was amazing, too."

The winner of Homecoming this year in the large organization division was service sorority Alpha Sigma Gamma, and the winner of the small organization division was Sigma Tau Gamma.

Students receive high marks at Career Expo

Katie Curry
for the Index

Steak 'n Shake District Manager Paul Ledgard said has had much success finding future employees at Truman's Career Fair.

The Career Expo took place yesterday and included about 110 companies interested in Truman students.

The Steak 'n Shake Company regularly sends a representative to Truman for the Career Expo. Ledgard has attended the Career Expo for seven years and said he uses the Expo to hire restaurant managers for the St. Louis market but also interviews students looking for marketing and information technology positions. He said the performance of Truman graduates he has hired is exceptional.

"I'm very impressed with their professionalism and their ability to handle tough situations," Ledgard said. "In the restaurant industry, it's kind of described as the art of managing chaos, and they seem to be cool and calm under fire."

Ledgard said professionalism is not the only prevalent trait he finds in Truman students but also finds them to be hospitable. He said he looks for very specific skills when he interviews students, including the ability to make him feel com-

fortable within the first 30 seconds of their conversation.

"If you look at the restaurant industry, that's all the time you have to deal with a customer," Ledgard said. "You have a brief window of time to communicate, so your ability to put someone at ease and make someone feel that they are the only person you are dealing with is a unique talent that seems to really help us out."

Ledgard said he has made visits to the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University but has found his greatest successes for the St. Louis market here at Truman.

"A lot of students come in with a predetermined negative opinion of the job they might be taking," Ledgard said. "However, a lot of Truman students come in with a predetermined opinion of the importance of the role they're taking."

Larry Frey, a district sales manager for the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Company, said it is another company that consistently is interested in hiring Truman students. He said he has come to the Career Expo for eight years looking to hire students for sales and marketing positions.

Frey said he looks for a multitude of different qualities when

he is meeting with and interviewing students, including a high degree of intelligence coupled with strong people skills.

"Generally, I look for the five degrees of emotional intelligence: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills," Frey said.

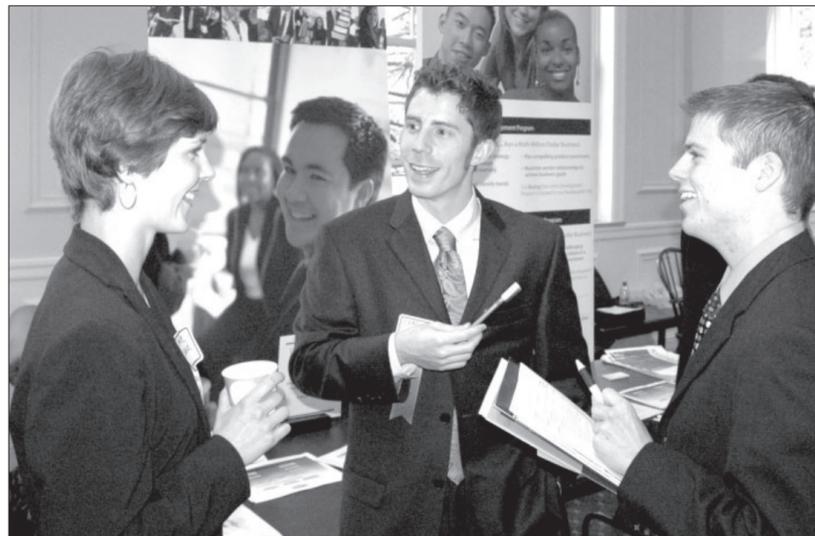
These are qualities he often finds in Truman students and is the reason he comes back to Truman to recruit at the Career Expo, Frey said.

"I basically find Truman students to be intellectually capable but also very capable of being personable," Frey said. "The best thing about Truman students is that they are well-prepared."

Several of the Truman students that Frey has hired through the years have been promoted through the company and achieved what Frey describes as "levels of excellence."

Of the three Truman graduates Frey hired in 1998, he said one is on his way to being an executive sales representative, another is a business operation associate at the corporate headquarters, and the other is a district sales manager in Los Angeles.

"I seem to find a good concentration of good kids up here at Truman," Frey said.



Carrie Bowland and Chad Johnson, representatives of Famous Barr and Truman alumni, talk to senior Matt O'Neil at the Career Expo on Wednesday afternoon.

Adam Kabins/Index

The students aren't the only reason Frey said he comes back to Truman for the Expo. He said that competency and quality of the University career center is a major reason for his continued attendance.

"I don't think many Truman students appreciate how good their Career Center is," Frey said.

He said he thinks the staff at the Career Center has an interest in the well-being and success of every student at Truman, more so than many others he's dealt with.

"I've never worked with a better group of personnel at a career

center who have the students' welfare more at heart, and I've worked with numerous state institutions across the nation," Frey said.

Jan Fishback is a career coordinator with the career center and is largely responsible for attracting and recruiting the companies that come to the Career Expo. This year companies such as Eli Lilly and Company, Famous Barr, Edward Jones, Nebraska Furniture Mart and Target Corporation attended.

Fishback recruits companies all year for the event and attempts to respond to the interests and re-

quests of students who come to her asking for a particular company or field to be represented.

"My job is making companies aware of the exceptional quality of Truman students," Fishback said. "That way, even if they don't end up coming, I can still get the word out about Truman and its students."

Senior Matt Doellman said he found that many students had good experiences with their interviews.

"They seemed very professional, very skill-oriented," Doellman said. "Overall, I think it went great."

Alumni return for banquet, support University with donations

Emily Humble
for the Index

Homecoming isn't just for students to enjoy the festivities. For Truman graduates it's a chance to come back home to their University.

Mark Gambaiana, vice president for University Advancement, said Homecoming is one of two annual events that bring alumni back to campus.

"Anytime we get alums back on campus, good things happen," Gambaiana said.

He said that keeping alumni involved in University happenings is a two-step dance.

"Step one is to create awareness, enthusiasm, acceptance and involvement of the great work that the University does," Gambaiana said. "And then step two is to come behind after the relationships are developed to ask our alumni and friends to make private gifts to support the good work that we do

here on campus."

Several Truman alumni were in town for Homecoming Week. Denise Smith, manager of Alumni Relations, said numbers were up at the annual banquet, and additional tables were set out.

"It was one of the largest turnouts we have had in five years," Smith said.

She said hosting events for graduates is one way to keep them connected to Truman, which in turn benefits the school.

"The more connected alumni are to the University, the more likely they are to give back, but not just financially, but voluntarily," Smith said. "There are many ways they can give back."

Smith said the University relies on its alumni to help out as

speakers at events and as mentors to students, among other volunteering tasks.

Charles Hunsaker, major gifts officer and manager of the annual fund, said he tries to create a bridge for alumni back to the University through TelAlumni.

"We try to build connections between students that are calling and the alumni ...," Hunsaker said. "We try to connect them with projects that are going on here that they might have a specific interest in, so they can give to something they feel good about."

Hunsaker also said alumni are critical to the University because of who they are and what they can do.

"They have the most connections with the University, and our hope is that they had a great

experience while they were here as students," Hunsaker said. "So then when they graduate they want to stay involved either by joining an alumni chapter or by being involved in the area of promoting Truman to other students that might want to come."

Hunsaker said that in the past year, Truman has seen an increase in the number of alumni donating, and all financial support is appreciated no matter how large or small.

"We actually set a record in terms of the number of alumni making a gift," Hunsaker said. "The number of alumni donors was 6,324 compared to 5,850 last year."

DeAnn Malone, a 1993 graduate and vice president of the Alumni Association Board, is one alumna who has remained actively involved with the University since graduation. She said she strongly believes in giving back.

"I think it's really important," Malone said. "When I was here, I got so much from the University that I think anything I can give back is minimal, ... but it means a lot, and it's me sort of paying back everything the University gave me."

Malone said she thinks alumni should give back at whatever level they can but does not see it as an obligation.

"Not everybody can be a huge donor, but every gift is important," Malone said.

Chuck Foudree, a 1966 graduate, has served on various University boards as an alumnus and said he sees the role as an important one.

"As a proud alum, I think the ball is largely in our court to sustain the level of excellence here at the University," Foudree said. "Costs don't go down. Costs go up. So the only way to sustain the excellence, I think, is we have to raise the level of financial aid

available to students. ... That's my goal of the alumni base of the University, to greatly expand that level of giving."

Foudree said he thinks alumni need to become more aware of the needs of the University and need to be reminded of the fine education they received at Truman.

Foudree said he is comfortable and happy to be able to donate to Truman and sees a lot of good reasons for doing so.

"First of all, you are supporting a very high-quality product here: the caliber of students we attract, the capabilities of the faculty and the facilities," Foudree said.

Foudree said he thinks giving back to the University is important.

"It's so customary in colleges and universities of high quality today to turn around and help their alma mater," Foudree said. "It's time we widened that base of support at Truman State."