

# Union debates to success

**Emily Humble**  
for the Index

There is a pattern in the Truman State Forensic Union, and the pressure is on to keep it going.

At least four students have made it to the national finals each spring since associate professor of communication and director of forensics Kevin Minch came to Truman four years ago.

Minch said with success comes the pressure to continue to succeed.

"Obviously there is a lot of pressure to try to do the best you can to repeat what you have done in the past," Minch said. "There is always pressure. When is it going to be the year that we finally fall out of that pattern?"

Minch said the two keys to continuing success are practice and discipline.

The team began practice during Truman Week with the addition of new team members. Current team members, such as sophomore Dylan Rothermel, are optimistic about their new teammates.

"We have picked up a lot of very good freshmen," Rothermel said. "So I think a very reasonable goal is to, at the very least, continue the same amount of success we've had in the past."

Junior Stefani Wittenauer, a second-year member, said she also was impressed with the newcomers.

"It seems like our freshmen are going to rise up and take over where we have lost some seniors," she said. "So it seems like we're still going to

be doing pretty well this year if we keep practicing."

Senior Elizabeth Hobbs, who has been with the team for four years, said she knows what it takes to succeed.

"The simplest thing is to always practice debate," she said.

Many members said they take their job on the team seriously, devoting anywhere from 30 minutes to a couple hours for individual events and up to five hours a week for debates. During a usual practice session, the student or team meets with at least one of the coaches and does a mock debate or speech. The coach then critiques them on what they can do to improve.

The team also is working on things outside of practice. Rothermel said one thing the team is doing this year to stay on track is to try to be on top of current events. The team reads newspapers or checks news Web sites for current events and world happenings.

Wittenauer reiterated the importance of being in the know.

"You always have to know current events as well as be able to speak about them," she said.

Coaches have team members work on cases and issue briefs about specific subjects to help them be better informed about what is going on in the world.

This research then can be referenced in their debates.

"Because we do this research ahead of time, we have a little more knowledge of the subject, which leads to a better debate in general," Rothermel said. "And we're more enthusiastic about subjects."

Hobbs said parliamentary de-



Senior Meghana Kunkala runs through her speech during debate practice in the Kirk Building on Tuesday night.

Nick Corich/Index

bates are different and keep participants on their toes.

"With parliamentary debate it is easy not to do the work because you're not allowed to bring evidence with you in rounds," she said. "So I think a lot of people just go off the knowledge that they know off the top of their head."

Wittenauer said other schools definitely are aware of Truman's presence.

"A lot of teams on the circuit look at Truman State University and they think, 'Wow, those people are really great debaters,'" she said.

Truman's success streak has awarded the team a reputation, one that is at stake each time they

head to a tournament.

Hobbs said the team needs to recognize they must work hard to reach standards attained by Truman squads of previous years.

"We have a reputation for having a good, quality squad and a lot of good, quality teams," Hobbs said.

Wittenauer said Truman's Forensic

Union will be ready for its competition this year.

"We all know that every single team out there is beatable and that we can beat them if we try hard enough," she said. "We will continue to be in here every single week practicing so that we can have as much success as possible."

## WARE | Former Bulldogs football head coach John Ware dies of apparent heart attack

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apologies," Currier said in a speech to his players, many of whom had their heads bowed. "He had a lot of respect for this program. I think deep down he was more Bulldog than Lion."

Marble, a former defensive back who played under Ware, said, "We lost a member of the family today."

Marble shared stories about Ware and read John 8:14 from the Bible before the team said a prayer.

Tuesday night, senior wide receiver James Walton said he couldn't believe the news and echoed Ware's importance.

"I feel like Superman died," he said. "That's how [important] he was to me. Superman's not supposed to die like this. It's just so catastrophic, like the world's been shook up."

Ware's loss had the same effect at Missouri Southern. In spring 2004, Ware inherited a program that had gone 1-10 and didn't even have enough players for their spring game.

Still, under Ware's guiding hand, the Lions enjoyed a 5-6 season, as Ware was named National Coach of the Year by CollegiateSportsReport.com.

This season, the Lions had a 2-3 record entering Saturday. Now, of-

fensive coordinator Keeth Matheny will take over as acting head coach for the rest of the season.

"We lost a great man," Matheny said. "It's a huge loss to the game, the community, the program and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are first with his wife and family and all the people he's touched."

Lions Athletic Director Sally Beard said Ware's impact extended far beyond the gridiron.

"He brought a vision to Missouri Southern that permeated athletics," she said. "His positive impact went beyond the football field."

This included allowing his players

to raise money for Hurricane Katrina on the same day the Lions played archival Pittsburg State University.

The game Saturday will be played. There will be a remembrance before the 2 p.m. kickoff.

"We have to play with a lot of intensity, lots of desire and lots of compassion because that's how [Ware] would want it," Walton said. Ware is survived by his wife, Melissa, who is the University's former sports information director.

Funeral arrangements still are pending, according to Wednesday's edition of the Joplin Globe.

Reported by: *Conor Nicholl, Josh Sisson, Tyler Madsen*

## VIOLETTE | Groups warned about food

**Classroom Reservation**  
**RULES**  
VH 1000 & 1010

- Must be trained on the computer console
- Must list equipment on DPS confirmation
- Tidy the room following event
- Straighten all seating
- Remove all trash following event
- No candles or open flames allowed in Truman facilities

Designed by Mark Hyton

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would be banned from all rooms for the rest of the semester.

Lucas said one warning was enough. He said APO cannot afford to lose its privileges to have meetings in VH 1000 and 1010, especially with a chapter size of 140 members.

"As a recognized organization, we try to keep up our reputation as best as possible," Lucas said. "We can't just have people thinking that this is us and that we just destroy campus."

One of the rules of room reservations states all litter must be disposed of after meetings, according to Room Reservations Online. Cupelli said the VP office is trying to restrict all food in both VH 1000 and 1010 so it does not damage the technology. Food still can be served in the Student Union Building, however, as long as it is from Sodexo.

Center for Teaching & Learning Secretary Linda Davenport said when she came to set up for a presentation after the APO meeting was over, there was garbage left

behind in the room for her to walk through. She said that on other occasions empty pizza boxes were almost always present, which she said frustrates her immensely.

Lucas said the food members bring to meetings ranges from bottled water to a full dinner because their meetings are at 6.

APO is not the only organization in jeopardy. Lucas said other organizations should be blamed as well.

"The big problem that [APO has] is that we're the last group to have [VH 1010] for the evening, and so essentially we have to take on the responsibility of all the groups before us," Lucas said. "It's not necessarily fair."

Chemburkar said room littering seems to be a typical problem during the first couple weeks of every school year. He said that as long as organizations clean up after themselves, there should be no problem.

"Students shouldn't have to walk into an 8 o'clock class with wrappers and lettuce on the floor," Chemburkar said. "It's not a good learning environment."

## BUILDING | Kirksville welcomes potential jobs from building lease to Commercial Envelope

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to a company for warehousing, which doesn't create any jobs."

City Manager Mari Macomber said the agreement helps the city and Commercial Envelope.

"Not only is it creating jobs, but it's also going to provide reimbursement to the city for expenses we have on the building," Macomber said.

Macomber said the lease is triple-net, meaning Commercial Envelope is responsible for building maintenance, but the city will pay \$48,000

for roof repairs before the lease takes effect.

Macomber said the city has purchased previously occupied buildings in the past and leased them to other organizations.

"Communities have invested in building buildings — if you build it they will come, that sort of theory," Macomber said.

According to its Web site, the family-owned company, founded in 1924, prints 35 million envelopes a day at its plants in five states.

Steven Kristel, executive vice president of

Commercial Envelope, said the number of former Standard Register employees still living in Kirksville attracted his company. Kristel said that once it begins its operations in Kirksville next year, he hopes to create more jobs.

Tate said the city will offer incentives for any additional jobs created.

"This company has the opportunity to hire from an experienced work force, and that was a very important consideration in their decision to come here," Tate said.

## BOOKS | Literary magazine organizes protest of book banning by reading off-limit texts

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speech, not suppressing books."

Preussner used "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain as an example of a banned book. School boards and parent groups have gotten into public fights about this book, she said, but she wonders how many of the individuals actually have read "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

"I know that people are very concerned in the case of this book about the remnants of slavery and

language," Preussner said. "But an objectionable word is not the same thing as the thing itself."

She said she agrees with students that object to some book elements.

"But my next question is, shouldn't we still read this book and respond to it in ways that are highly critical?" Preussner said.

Although she does not believe in banning books, in some ways the process can be beneficial, she said.

"I think that when books are banned or there are challenges to

their being included in a curriculum or stocked in a library, people have to think about what's important to them," she said. "Are they willing to support having books available to people when those books include concepts or language or descriptions that they personally find obnoxious or objectionable?"

Karen McClaskey, head of public services at Pickler Memorial Library, said her opinion about banning books has changed.

"Once you become a parent, you

realize that some things are not appropriate for a young person, so you have to look at it through different sets of eyes," McClaskey said.

Book banning is not an issue at the university level, she said. Books are purchased according to how well they meet student and faculty needs and how much money is provided for purchasing, McClaskey said.

"We don't have to agree with everything that's on our shelves," McClaskey said. "We'd be in big trouble if we did."

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