



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Sophomore Nathan Jeffers will enter his abstract painting (pictured right) in the Missouri Hall Art Gala. He said he paints to the mood of movies and created this one to the film "Braveheart." As a visual communications major, Jeffers works with a variety of projects including logo design (above). The gala will feature Jeffers' and other students' work on March 3.

# Art gala paints high hopes for Missouri Hall

BY RYAN MOORE  
Staff Reporter

Missouri Hall's lackluster walls soon will receive a little sprucing up.

The Missouri Hall Senate will host its first art gala the evening of March 3 in the Chariton Room of Missouri Hall. This gala will give every amateur, aspiring and accredited artist in the Truman population a chance to shine.

The festival will feature works from Truman students, which can consist of any two-dimensional media. From photographs to paintings to framed works, any submission within the limits of imagination and public decency will be on exhibition.

Spearheading this fledgling project, Missouri Hall Director Zac Burden said he is optimistic about the result.

"This is one of the issues I brought to the [Missouri Hall] Senate, letting them know the educational aims behind it," Burden said. "There's been buzz about it all year. ... We're hoping that this serves as the foundation for a program that will continue from year to year."

Burden said he sees many benefits to Missouri Hall's art expo.

"The idea is two-fold," he said. "One — to be able to have that art show basically to get students excited about student art and to recognize it on the whole, and then the second part is then to recognize those three top winners and to make that part of our permanent collection to display in the building."

The festival not only will be a chance for students to display art to the public but to recognize the popular pieces in the gallery. After the public carefully combs over each piece, viewers support their favorite pieces through by voting. The three pieces that receive the most votes will



be honored in a reception in the days following the gala.

These three artists will each receive \$100 in prize money funded by the Missouri Hall Senate and will have their works displayed in Missouri Hall next year.

A Missouri Hall resident, sophomore Nathan Jeffers, plans to submit one of his abstract paintings to the art gala.

What's original about his piece, is the way he produces them — he paints to movies.

"When I listen to certain types of music, I get into a certain type of mood, which inspires a certain subject matter," he said.

Professor of English Alanna Preussner said she formulated the idea for the art show a few years ago when she was college rector of Missouri Hall and pitched it to Burden. Inspired by the campus of her alma mater, Illinois Wesleyan University, Preussner said she thought something should be done to decorate the University.

"We essentially took it for granted that there was art all over that campus all the time," she said. "There were,

of course, gallery shows, ... but there also was sculpture out on the yards, and oil paintings on the walls and lithographs in the library."

Preussner said she anticipates that, along with the enjoyment of viewing works, there will be underlying advantages for hosting an art gallery in the residence halls.

"Art is something that's a part of daily life," she said. "... I love our gallery here. It's beautiful, but it's also nice to have art out in the environments where we are working and living. We miss it when it's not there."

Freshman Amanda Kliethermes, member of the Missouri Hall Senate Improvement Committee, helped get the gala on its feet.

Kliethermes said she currently is unsure how many artists the gala will draw in but hopes for a large turnout. Kliethermes said the gala, if successful, might be expanded to other residence halls in future years.

"Our goal is to get student art in every lounge," Kliethermes said. "Actually, all we need is three pieces. If we could get more than that, that would be wonderful."

Kliethermes said the future of the art gala will rely heavily on the interest of the Truman population. The gala will be open until 9 p.m. on March 3.

**"Art is something that's a part of daily life. It isn't necessarily just in specific museums."**

Alanna Preussner  
Professor of English

# Woehlk signs off after 24 years with Writing Center

Longtime director will retire, is proud of writing consultants

BY JESSICA RAPP  
Features Editor

In McClain 303, a room adorned with couches, cushions and candy, students are block-busters.

Senior Katie Monaghan works in the Writing Center at least once a week to help students with papers. She is one of several writing consultants who coaches students daily with issues ranging from proofreading a paper to countering writer's block.

"We're ... a really great resource for people who just need to brainstorm for something or they're concerned about the organization of a paper," she said. "Pretty much anything that involves writing whatsoever, we're there for them. ... There's a lot of funny people at the Writing Center, and it's always very homey there because we'll always have a little bowl of candy ... and word magnets to play with, so it's very relaxed, ... so no one should be

afraid to come in."

The atmosphere in the Writing Center lends itself to fun, but some students have the misconception that the Writing Center's purpose only involves homework, Monaghan said.

Mary Lou Woehlk, 24-year director of the writing center and professor of English and Linguistics, said she works to prove this assumption wrong. She said she has watched the Writing Center develop over the years and prides herself and her staff for the Writing Center's high quality compared to writing centers at other universities.

"I think when creating a comfortable environment, the thing that you want to keep in mind first of all is that writers cannot feel intimidated or judged by having somebody else look at their writing," she said.

She said she puts emphasis on the fact that the Writing Center provides student consultants. The consultants constantly work to improve the comfort of the Writing Center to make an extremely reputable service, she said.

"By having peer writing consultants, [writers] know [they're] talking to someone who maybe has gone through the same expe-



Mark Hardy/Index

Secretary Kathy Bulen (left) talks with Writing Center director Mary Lou Woehlk following the Wednesday morning staff meeting. Woehlk plans to retire this semester after 24 years.

riences [they've] had," she said. "... So at our staff meetings, ... we talk about issues that involve writing centers, and a lot of what we do is to share situations so that the writing consultants can kind of grow by listening to what their peers are doing."

Woehlk, who said she is preparing to retire at the end of this semester, said she has enjoyed the diverse group of students with whom she has worked over the years. She said consultant applicants go through an extensive training process that attracts people from all majors.

"They can be anybody," she

said. "I would say the last two years, we've grown heavy on English majors, but one of the good things about that is that those English majors have diverse backgrounds. ... We've got some history people and political science, but I'd like to have more people from the sciences."

Woehlk and the consultants provide services including helping students write essays in Spanish and assisting English as a Second Language students. Junior John McDonough, a second-year consultant, said that during slower periods at the Writing Center, the vast majority of those who need

coaching are students whose native language is not English.

Woehlk said the Writing Center welcomes any type of writing, and she has seen students bring in pieces like biology lab reports, philosophy statements, cover letters and creative writing.

"Most of our writers who come in here are good writers who want to go that next step, who want to be even better, who want to make sure they're getting feedback on their writing and an opportunity to revise in a meaningful way," she said. "So that distinguishes us — we don't do as much developmental work

as other writing centers."

Both Monaghan and McDonough said they enjoy writing and view their work at the Writing Center as an experience that could benefit their future careers. McDonough said he not only guides writers but learns from them and their pieces.

"It's really interesting because you get to learn a lot about what other students are doing and about different classes," McDonough said. "So not only do you read people's papers, but you read people's biology papers. The other day I read this really interesting paper about universal health care."

Woehlk said she plans to hire additional consultants for the fall semester, even though she is unsure about who will take her place as director.

McDonough, who plans to study abroad in the fall and return to the Writing Center in the spring, said that, as of now, coming back without Woehlk leaves him uncertain.

"She's there as a support figure as well as a teacher, too," he said. "She's that figure who's always there if you need her. It's going to be really weird ... for all of us really, the only thing we know is having Mary Lou running the Writing Center. ... It's going to be really interesting to see who [the new director] is and what they do with the Writing Center."

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