

Poetry party



Missouri Poet Laureate Walter Barga speaks with junior Amanda Happy after his Tuesday night reading in the SUB. Mark Hardy/Index

SCHOOLS | Liberal arts program helps students satisfy interests, become well-rounded

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ize the positive values of a liberal arts education, and they are attempting to create similar set-ups such as small class sizes in their own schools, she said.
"A lot of schools are doing all of these things, but I think that the degree to which we do them and the degree to which we concentrate on them makes us different," Dixon said. "What we compete with is not so much the whole university but the honors colleges of the other universities. Usually an honors college or an honors program ... tries to replicate all the best aspects of a liberal arts education."

more than is necessary. Unrelated courses distract students when they could be taking classes and meeting professors within the programs of their chosen career paths, Linhares said. A liberal arts program does help develop a well-rounded person upon its completion, he said.
"I think [a liberal arts program] has value, but career value, possibly not," Linhares said. "I'm all for being well-rounded just as a person, but whether or not that has career legitimacy is questionable."

Truman is one of only 25 schools in the Council of Public Liberal Colleges. Brad Chambers, director of admission, communications and scholarships, said prospective students do not really know what a liberal arts institution is when they initially visit.
"It is engaging for [prospective students] to realize that in coming to Truman, they're not going to just be focusing on the discipline that they might choose as a major," Chambers said. "They're going to be able to satisfy their interests in other areas and maybe even develop additional interests through this broad liberal studies program."

He said students come to understand liberal arts through direct experience.
"As students are here, they develop a deeper understanding of how meaningful it can be as they

experience it," he said. "Once they graduate, and they are in their fields and using the skills, ... individuals really do reflect on the education that they've received and appreciate the value that the liberal arts have had in their development."
New recruitment efforts include search mailings to encourage prospective students to request information, radio advertisements and billboards, especially within Missouri, Chambers said. The admission department talks to prospective students about the ways the liberal arts program at the University allows room to discover more interests and develop communication and critical thinking skills.

"This world is changing so rapidly and so dramatically that if you are preparing for a specific job, your skills are going to be outdated very quickly," he said. "The liberal arts allow you to be more nimble."
David Kincaid, assistant director of the Career Center, said that although he is not certain that the liberal arts program influences the success of Truman students after graduation, the skills and experiences gained through the program are beneficial.
"Today, I don't think any student in any college in this country can get by on just having the degree alone," he said. "That degree in itself won't

cut it. You've got to bring some other things to the table."

Kincaid said other benefits that can be found at the University include study abroad opportunities, scholarship jobs, internships and research experience. Having a strong work ethic and the capacity to meet challenges also enhance students' marketability, he said. Employers must find something worthwhile in Truman students because many go out of their way to travel to Kirksville to interview and recruit, Kincaid said.
"I think what employers probably are really responding to is the way Truman educates students, the way Truman challenges students and then the way that students respond to those challenges," Kincaid said.

Jillian Kinzie, associate director at the center for post-secondary research at Indiana University, works with the National Survey of Student Engagement, which collects information at four-year colleges and universities to evaluate undergraduate experiences. She said students who do not receive a liberal arts education at the undergraduate level are at a disadvantage. Kinzie said schools need to better explain the benefits of a liberal arts education.
"It's not immediately clear what a liberal arts degree might offer you," Kinzie said. "I think it's a little fear that makes it kind of hard to enter into something and say, 'I really want to be a philosophy major,' when it's a little hard to see what the career opportunity might be."

"What we compete with is not so much the whole university but the honors colleges of the other universities."

Barbara Dixon
University President

DELEGATES | Superdelegates allow state to still have a say in presidential nomination if regular delegates are split and give party "escape hatch"

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This puts the state back where it started — an equal split of support between the two Democratic front runners.
Rebecca Loving, press secretary for Rep. Ike Skelton, Jefferson City, said Skelton is unlikely to pledge support for a candidate before he has to at the August convention.

She said the preferences of Skelton's Congressional district will play a part in his eventual choice. In the meantime, he has been contacted by both the Clinton and Obama campaigns.
"I think that there will be many factors that play into his decision and that will, of course, be one of them," Loving said.
John Temporiti, the chairman of the Missouri Democratic Party, is another of the state's undecided delegates. He said he is committed to maintaining neutrality until the August convention, but in his decision, he'll take into account the results of popular vote and the candidate's electability, character and stance on issues.

"I am first the chairman of the Democratic Party, so I felt pretty strongly that I needed to stay neutral in the race to

make sure all candidates had equal access and opportunity," Temporiti said. "... I still maintain neutrality because of the second reason: ... When we had our Super Tuesday, the delegates were exactly equally split."
"They want Missouri"

Temporiti pointed out that all superdelegates are elected. Those who gain the responsibility by virtue of their position are elected officials: Democratic governors, senators and representatives. Party officials are elected by the state party, he said.
"Superdelegates are elected, not appointed," Temporiti said. "That keeps getting missed, like we're somehow appointed in back rooms with cigar-smoking politicians. It's not true."

So why the superdelegate process? Temporiti said there are historic reasons.
"There was kind of a concept that there ought to be elected party officials who spend their lives doing this, that ... [they] had a little bit more [experience] than the normal citizen," he said.
Rotert added that superdelegates give the Democratic Party a way out of nominating a candidate if negative

information surfaces about him or her after primary season has ended, as was the case in a previous election.
"If sometime during the summer, something terrible happens, it gives an escape hatch for the party," he said.
Most of all, if regular delegates are equally divided, superdelegates allow an individual state to still have a voice in the nomination process, Temporiti said.
"This is a classic case of why there are superdelegates: it's 36 to 36," he said. "So who's the nominee? There isn't one? In Missouri, if there weren't this process, we would be stalemated. And what would happen is that other states would have more say than us."

As it is, the campaigns court superdelegates as they do groups of regular voters. Temporiti said he has talked to former president Bill Clinton four times and Obama three times. Likewise, Rotert said Wednesday that Cleaver recently had a phone conference with Sen. Hillary Clinton.
"They want Missouri," Temporiti said. "They want to say that in this bellwether state, ... they've got the majority of the superdelegates, and they don't right now."

"That's another judgment call"

Tuesday night's primaries in Texas, Ohio, Vermont and Rhode Island leveled the delegate count between leading contender Obama (who now has 1,520 delegates) and Clinton (who now has 1,424). Some Texas results have yet to come in, according to CNN.com.
The votes of superdelegates count just like the votes of pledged delegates. Clinton has garnered the support of 238 superdelegates, while Obama trails with 199.

"[After last night's contests], we breathed a big sigh of relief," Rotert said. "... Everyone was biting their nails, including [Cleaver], knowing that [Clinton] is a tenacious fighter but that the odds were not necessarily with her going into yesterday."
The continued, dogged battle for votes between Obama and Clinton leads Temporiti to believe more Missouri superdelegates may pledge their votes soon, he said.
"In the next six weeks, there could be some movement in the superdelegates," he said. "Then, superdelegates might feel yet another dynamic: Does a continued, somewhat acrimonious race benefit the party? ... That's another judgment call."

He said he enjoys following the debates and seeing the candidates' opinions mature, pointing out that Sen. John McCain, who now has clinched the Republican nomination, hasn't spoken publicly about his stance on issues in several weeks.
Temporiti said that if voters understand the reasoning behind superdelegates, they're more likely to accept the process. Junior James Lang, president of College Democrats, agrees.
"I think the system that we have is appropriate," Lang said. "I think that it has worked in the past and the influence of superdelegates is not going to be of greatest significance."

Lang said he's not convinced superdelegates would overturn a convincing majority of regular delegates, because it could hurt them politically.
"Because we have a proportional delegate system, any big sway by superdelegates is still in some ways going to reflect a very close margin," he said. "[Superdelegates] are afraid of this idea of a ... back-room deal, so politically, it could be troublesome for superdelegates to really make any significant impact."

HOME | Residents have 120 days to move

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to move a trailer? Also, some of these trailers are so old that they won't move. However, the eviction notice stated that if we leave our trailer or any personal property on the lot, we will be charged for continuing trespassing."
The resident said that about 20 to 25 residents have been evicted already. The resident said she does not know what is going to be built on the property after the residents are gone, but that she has heard rumors about a truck stop, a gas station, a restaurant and a public storage facility.
Hickman's secretary told the Index that he was out of town.
Despite the residents' dismay, legally they do not have many options. City Attorney Howard Hickman said disputes between landlords and tenants are a complicated subject and that usually the lease itself is the ultimate legal reference, but there are other factors that might cause problems.

"Various state statutes and city ordinances may also come into play," he said. "A big one, for example, would be the amount of notice a tenant must receive before eviction."
Hickman said the terms of the lease also might be a problem. He said some leases might be silent or ambiguous when it comes to the cause of a dispute between a landlord and a tenant.
Ted Smith of Affordable Mobile Home Movers in Moberly, Mo., said there are no general guidelines for pricing the cost of moving a trailer, but the complete tear-down, move and setting up of a trailer within a 50-mile radius of the original location usually costs about \$1,800. He said that because of the short notice, he is offering his services to these residents for only \$1,000 and is willing to work with them financially.
"We're going to try and help everyone out so that when this whole thing is over people still have a place to live," Smith said.

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Ted Smith
Affordable Mobile Home Movers

FELON | Man enters Alford pleas

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Missouri. I think he made the right plea."

Williams also said he is satisfied with the outcome of the Wietholder cases. Williams brought charges against Wietholder in the animal abuse case but was not involved with the manslaughter charge because the incident took place across county lines. The case eventually moved from Schuyler County to Linn County on Wietholder's request, according to a court docket sheet.
"Because of the murder charges down there, our case was kind of downplayed," Williams said.
Williams said that although Wietholder initially was charged with eight counts of animal abuse, Reuschel requested that the counts be consolidated into one charge.
"As long as the people who are involved are satisfied, then I'm usually satisfied [with the outcome of the case]," Williams said. "It's a hard question ... [because] this time horses are the identified victims. ... Before I agreed to the plea I had a talk with Carmen Skelly, who was the lead investigator in the case, and she went back and talked to her superiors [at the Humane Society]. ... They said they were OK with it."

Members of the Humane Society of Missouri were unavailable for comment, but Williams said that even with the consolidated charge, Wietholder received the maximum sentence of four years.
Between both crimes, Wietholder has been sentenced to 14 years of jail time but the 10-year sentence overlaps the 4-year sentence entirely, for a total of 10 years. The time also includes a 15-day sentence for an Adair County third-degree assault charge, a class C misdemeanor.
Reuschel said Wietholder will be eligible for parole in the near future.
"The Adair County charges were made to run concurrently with the Schuyler County charges," Reuschel said. "He's sentenced to 10 years total, but he'll serve about four. He'll be eligible for parole as early as two years from today — the time he's already served counts towards his sentence."
An October 2006 court order from Schuyler County appointed two individuals as Wietholder's guardians and conservators, according to court documents, and in November 2006, the court gave an order for the individuals to sell some of Wietholder's property. In August 2007, Northeast Regional Medical Center filed a claim of almost \$23,000 against Wietholder's estate, which was approved in November.

MISSOURI HALL STUDENT ART GALA WINNERS

Congratulations,
AmbROSEa
by Nathan P. Jeffords
Retrospective
by Katie Poland Stephens
Lillah
by Catherine Meyer

the winners of the first annual MO Hall Student Art Gala and a \$100 prize. Their art will be the first works added to the MO Hall Student Art collection.

Thank you from the Missouri Hall Senate to all of the artists who participated in the Student Art Gala

THE PEAR TREE

DINING HOURS 4:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TUESDAY – SATURDAY
Closed the month of January

CARRIAGE ROOM
Cocktails, Dinner, Banquets

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