

University still paying attention to Hazel Creek

BY CHRIS BONING
Assistant News Editor

Both the past and future of Hazel Creek Lake have ties to Truman.

University members have continued conducting research on the lake even though documents from the now-disbanded Hazel Creek Concerned Citizens Committee have become a part of the Pickler Memorial Library's special collections.

Ron Gaber, chairman of the former HCCC, said he donated all of the records associated with the organization on Friday, including meeting minutes, correspondence between members, copies of petitions and maps.

The University's library staff approached him about adding the documents to the school's special collections, he said.

"It sort of worked out perfect because I think it's an important part of our past history and will eventually become an important part of our future in terms of water quality and the Hazel Creek issue," he said.

Gaber said the documents additionally serve

as a record of the former City Council's controversial political activity, without which the Hazel Creek land sale might never have happened.

It is important to remember Hazel Creek because of how it moved people to take action, he said.

"I think there's significantly more public awareness about watching how and what our government does regarding our public lands," Gaber said.

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Ron Gaber
Chairman of the former HCCC

He said Kirksville has made a lot of progress in relation to Hazel Creek, although there still is work to be done.

He suggested building on the success of the Watershed Management Commission,

which the City Council created last year to monitor Hazel Creek, and applying for more federal funds to use for maintaining the quality of Kirksville's water.

Gaber said the HCCC stopped meeting formally several months ago, although some members remain involved with the Watershed Management Commission.

Elaine Doak, head of University special collec-



Jackson Groves/Index

Local citizen Jim Shepherd fishes on Hazel Creek Lake on Wednesday afternoon. The University recently received a large donation of materials from the now-disbanded Hazel Creek Concerned Citizens Committee.

tions, said she selects the materials in the collections based on their historical significance either locally or to the University. Many items have been donated over the years, and she usually accepts all of them, she said.

"I don't remember ever actually turning down anything," she said.

Doak said her department hasn't processed the HCCC documents yet, but they will be placed into the Violette-McClure Missouriana manuscript collection.

That collection is for locally historic materials unrelated to the University, she said.

Doak said the HCCC documents are important as a record of what happened in 2005.

"You could research it for different reasons — for [the] political situation, [and] for environmental studies," she said.

Doak also pointed out that because the HCCC is no longer in existence, anything could have happened to its documents.

"Somebody in the future might not realize the importance of this and toss it out," she said. "We would lose that informa-

tion. That's why we keep things like this."

Meanwhile, members of the University community are ensuring that Hazel Creek remains contaminant-free.

Barbara Kramer, associate professor of chemistry, is part of a research team that has been testing

Hazel Creek Lake and Forest Lake for various contaminants.

The part of the team with which she works monitors the lake for organic pesticides and chemical by-products from electrical transformers, she said.

Kramer said the team is funded in part by the University and in part by a \$60,000 grant from Merck, a pharmaceutical company.

The grant allows four faculty per summer to work on the research project, she said. Kramer said Merck also sponsors four students on the research team.

She said the purpose of the grant was not for water analysis, but rather to bring together researchers with backgrounds in either chemistry or biology.

Kramer said the team has been working with the local Watershed Manage-

ment Commission.

"We sort of report to them and let them know what we're doing," Kramer said.

She said the grant, which was awarded in spring 2007, will last for three years.

"We plan on, I think, continuing to monitor," Kramer said. "I think that's part of the question ... people just didn't know this information about the lake. ... There's still a lot to be learned. It's a long-term thing."

Kramer said she also used to live near the lake.

"It was an interesting thing to watch the change after [the land sale]. ..." she said. "There were suddenly all those people out there watching what was going on."

Kramer said the land surrounding the creek was altered somewhat after it was sold because trees were cut down and replaced with livestock.

"For a brief period of time I saw cows, and then the cows weren't there anymore," she said. "I don't know what was going on [with that], but there were definitely some changes in the landscape that way."

School debates curriculum change

Students and faculty discuss reforming core classes at open forums

BY BONNIE BIRSELL
Staff Reporter

Just months after significantly reorganizing Truman's academic structure, faculty and students are discussing more changes for the University.

Open forums took place Sept. 25 and 26 to discuss the possibility of changing Truman's curriculum. These forums, entitled "Changing Pedagogy, Changing Curriculum," brought together the Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum with students and faculty to talk about ways to improve the University's curriculum.

"The purpose of the forums was to get really different ideas of how you can teach core classes," said sophomore Lizz Esfeld, Student Senate representative to the Commission.

Esfeld said she thought the forums were important so that outsiders to the Commission could see the work it'd been doing and to get outside opinions so that when it re-

leases documents, the documents aren't a surprise.

"We're at the end of the first phase," she said.

Esfeld said the first phase involved developing a philosophy for the revamped curriculum and that the forums were a way for the public to give its input to this new philosophy.

"What we're asking [the Commission] to do is to re-examine what we think a liberal arts curriculum ought to look like," said Candy Young, professor of political science.

Young is also chair of the Undergraduate Council, a branch of the Commission.

Young said she attended the Sept. 25 session of the forum and that she was surprised by the number of people who came with specific ideas about how the curriculum could be improved.

"There was a lot of discussion about having a problem-based orientation," she said.

Young described problem-based orientation as a set of classes that would address general education through problem solving as op-

posed to addressing it subject by subject. One example, she said, would be a class based on the study of infectious diseases rather than a generic biology course.

Young said she thinks students often perceive liberal studies courses as an exercise the University requires them to go through, rather than useful and relevant classes.

She said having a problem-based curriculum would help students see the significance of general education courses.

"I think it sometimes comes off for students as we're just connecting disciplines to say that we've done so ... not always in an attempt to better understand how to solve a problem," she said.

Another subject the forums focused on was the attempt to define a liberal arts education.

"It gets pretty complicated," Young said of the distinction between liberal arts programs and general education programs. "We have to abide by state mandates on what is in the general education program."

She said students who attended the forum made it clear that they would like more options in their liberal studies program but that it is difficult to give the students what they want while staying within the state's guidelines.

"They expect every public school

to have a program that transfers easily to other campuses," she said.

University President Barbara Dixon said she has encouraged faculty members to attend these forums and to voice their opinions on the matter.

"The saying is the faculty owns the curriculum, and in some respects they do," she said. "They have the expertise ... and I think at this point in Truman's history it's vital that the faculty as a whole get involved in this discussion."

As for the problem of determining what a liberal arts education is, Dixon said people often get too caught up in creating definitions.

"A liberal arts education shouldn't be confused with a very narrow set of disciplines ... but rather an education that frees one from ignorance," she said.

Esfeld voiced her own opinion on a liberal arts education as one that allowed even the strictest and most confined of majors to experiment in classes outside of their chosen paths.

"It's a broader type of education," she said.

Esfeld also said she thought the forums were a way to make progress.

"I don't think it's a question we'll ever fully be able to answer, but I think we're getting kind of an idea of what it means to be a liberal arts institution," she said.

NEWS | In Brief

County postpones Feldman's trial

The trial setting for former Truman student Gabe Feldman was postponed Monday for the fourth time. Feldman was arraigned in March on one count of forcible rape, an unclassified felony. The trial setting, initially scheduled in May, will now take place Nov. 26.

Mark Williams, Adair County prosecuting attorney, said he has not yet received DNA results from the forensic laboratory of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

"Unfortunately, we only have the one lab in the state," Williams said.

Other cases' evidence could take precedence at the lab, he said, delaying the trial setting further.

"We aren't prepared to try yet," Williams said. "We're still waiting on [the DNA information]."

Defense attorney Greg Wittner filed a motion for a change of venue in March.

Student voters urged to register early

Students registered to vote in Kirksville should get a head start on the voting process, or they might not be eligible to cast their ballots in February, according to the Adair County Clerk's office.

Anytime a student registered to vote in Kirksville changes his or her address, he or she must re-register with the County Clerk's office, whether that address change is from one residence hall to another or from on-campus to off-campus housing.

The County Clerk's office soon will send voter registration confirmation cards to registered Kirksville voters. If registered voters do not receive confirmation of their address changes in the mail, they can contact the County Clerk's office. Students must confirm address changes before winter break to be eligible to vote in February.

Students registered to vote in their hometowns cannot vote in Kirksville.

Committee announces open forums

The search committee for the new associate vice president for enrollment management has selected its final candidates — Larry Dale Hoezee, Stuart Tennant and Dennis Trotter, according to a press release issued Tuesday.

The committee will host open forums for faculty, staff and students to meet the candidates, also according to the release. The forums will be at 4 p.m. today, Oct. 11 and 12.

The forums will be two hours long, with one hour allocated to faculty and staff to attend and the second hour allocated to students. All forums will be in Violette Hall 1000, and feedback forms will be available, according to the release.

The University has been without an associate vice president for enrollment management since John Fraire's departure in September 2007.

University receives federal grant

The Federal Department of Education has awarded the University's Ronald E. McNair Program a four-year \$1,020,036 grant, according to a press release issued Tuesday.

The McNair Program awards scholarships to students who are the first in their families to go to college and who come from low-income backgrounds or ethnicities under-represented in higher education.

The U.S. government established the program in its present form in 1989. Truman has been receiving grant money for McNair scholars since 1992. The University currently has 39 participants in the program.

The new grant is for use during the years 2007-2011.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate discussed the possibility of incoming student athletes having early access to registration.
- Senate discussed the Oct. 12 ribbon cutting for Baldwin Hall.
- Senate discussed the need for an intellectual diversity member on faculty senate.
- Senate discussed the possibility of an independent sober driver program, as proposed by senator junior Chris Miller.
- Senate discussed space allotment for the Bike Co-op's repair station.

DPS | Reports

- 9/30 James Beach, Dustin Degraffenreid, Tristan Porter and Megan Taylor were each issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 9/29 Sara Breidenbach was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 9/27 Report of bicycle theft from McClain
Report of theft from Stokes Stadium
- 9/26 Report of theft from Ryle Hall
- 9/25 Report of bicycle theft from Brewer Annex

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