

Teetering for cancer awareness



Freshmen Julie Thompson, Kelly Dez and Nicky Presley teeter on the mall for a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The event was sponsored by Alpha Kappa Lambda and Delta Zeta.

Brian O'Shaughnessy/
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NEWS | In Brief

Commission celebrates anniversary

The Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission will celebrate its 40th anniversary at the Annual Spring Membership Dinner Meeting on April 13 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Edina, Mo. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer will give the keynote address at 7 p.m. The commission is one of 19 regional planning commissions in Missouri. They are authorized by the State of Missouri Regional Planning and Community Development Act of 1966 to formally organize by county to promote the spirit of cooperatively working together to solve problems and plan the future development of regions and the state of Missouri. For additional information please contact Executive Director Nate Walker at (660) 465-7281 or natewalker@nem-orce.org.

Student Research Conference to take place

The 22nd annual Student Research conference will take place throughout the day Tuesday April 7. All daytime classes have been cancelled to encourage attendance at the event. This year's conference will feature both undergraduate and graduate research presentations in the form of papers, performances, posters and other displays. One of the highlights of the day will be the Plenary Address by Salima Ikram of American University in Cairo. Ikram is a world-renowned expert on mummies. A full itinerary of the day's events is available at <http://src.truman.edu/> or in this week's issue of Truman Today.

Forum to be re-aired

The News 36 staff will be re-airing the March 24 City Council Candidates Forum on the city's public access cable station, channel 3. It airs at noon and 7 p.m. on April 4 and 5. It also will run again at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. April 6.

MoDOT monitors Kirksville traffic

In an effort to define the major routes and areas of congestion, the Missouri Department of Transportation has chained traffic counters to street signs throughout the city of Kirksville. It has been seven years since MoDOT has done this. There are about 20 counters distributed throughout the city. Once the data is collected, it will be compiled into books and maps showing heavily congested areas. The City of Kirksville will then have access to the numbers and will use them to decide on possible construction or expansion projects on city roads. MoDOT will use the data to examine their highways more closely, including Baltimore/Highway 63, Highway 11, Highway 6 and Routes P and B.

Educator of the Year to be announced

The Educator of the Year Banquet will take place at 6 p.m. today in the SUB Georgian Room. This year's finalists are Alan Davis, professor of accounting, Alanna Preussner, professor of English and linguistics, Sherri Palmer, professor of psychology, Datha Damron-Martinez, professor of business administration and Matthew Tornatore, professor of classical and modern languages. Students nominate outstanding professors for the Educator of the Year award. After reading submitted essays and syllabi, the Educator of the Year Committee selected 12 semi-finalists, then six finalists. The committee then sat in on the finalists' classes and deliberated on the candidates before making decision.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate voted to amend FAC's by-laws and apply changes to the organization's constitution on the ballot.
- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$1,000 for a dinner, publicity and a YouTube contest for Earthweek.
- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$1,500 for Earthweek t-shirts.
- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$2,400 for recycling bins, spray paint and stencils for the Freshman Recycling Initiative.
- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$100 to pay for Phi Sigma Pi's red carpet runway event.
- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$1,900 to pay for food and flowers at the Educator of the Year banquet.
- Senate unanimously voted down a resolution to support Dean Gilchrist's changes to the Student Conduct Code posting policy.
- Senate passed a resolution to dissolve the Student Organization Center.

DPS | Reports

- 3/29 **Brett Knight, 21, was taken into protective custody and issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Trespass.**
- 3/26 **Troy Mendenhall and Tyler Vanwyke, both 17, were issued Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Trespass.**

Students petition for Comm 170

BY ANDREA HEWITT
Staff Reporter

A new group of communication majors and minors have made fighting to keep Public Speaking as an Essential Skills requirement a top priority.

The original goal of the National Communication Association Student Club was to create a group, other than Lambda Pi Eta, for communication majors, senior communication major Nathan Vickers said. The club would also be utilized for communication advocacy, but saving COMM 170 Public Speaking wasn't an issue at the time.

Vickers said he has been heavily involved in the formation of the NCASC because he works for Barry Poyner, professor of communication and NCASC adviser, who originally pushed for the club's formation.

"I've done a lot of the work for it, but it's really been a cooperative effort of Dr. Poyner and several other students," Vickers said.

He said the club's goals changed when curriculum issues began to arise.

"After University conference, when they started to talk about the curriculum, we decided we needed to take some initiative, and that would be a good starting project for our new club," Vickers said.

The club is advocating to keep COMM 170 a requirement because public speaking is a valuable skill, Vickers said.

"It's something you're going to use in the workplace [or] in a classroom, and it has to be kept," Vickers said. "It's kind of the ultimate liberal art because it encompasses a bunch of disciplines: organization, research, memory and delivery."

The group formed a petition solely to reflect students' opinions that states, "Resolved COMM 170 Public Speaking should be kept as an Essential Skills requirement at Truman State University," Vickers said.

The NCASC students also have received positive feedback from teachers, NSASC member senior Kaitlin Anderson said.

"I e-mailed professors last week and I've already gotten three or four responses that are like, 'Come talk to my class

about this,'" Anderson said.

The goal of the petition is to get 1,000 student signatures, Poyner said.

"I suggested to them that they might test the waters first and see how easy it might be, and they said it was very easy," Poyner said. "I said why don't you plan about 1,000 signatures because my recollection is that fewer than 1,000 participated in the curriculum survey, and if we better that number it would give increased attention to the cause."

Poyner said they formed the petition to give students the voice they were denied in the curriculum survey.

"The survey assumed some other module would replace it," Poyner said. "Therefore, they didn't ask the question, but they did ask if Health and Wellness should be retained. So, being denied voice, I think there's a real reason for them to go forward."

NCASC will be sending this survey to the Undergraduate Council once they reach their signature goal, Poyner said.

"The Undergraduate Council

is a sub-committee of The Faculty Senate," UGC Vice Chair Jay Self said. "It is a faculty group that is organized by [the] department where every department gets one representative, unless it's a large department with 25 or more faculty — then they get two representatives. The sole job of the UGC is to review curriculum matters that have cross-campus significance."

Receiving a petition from students will play a role in what the UGC suggests to the Faculty Senate, Self said.

Because of the significance of the change, the UGC and Faculty Senate won't be the only ones ultimately deciding what changes to the curriculum pass.

"What will probably happen is it will be put to a vote of the entire faculty," Self said. "The reason being that... faculty is in charge of the entire curriculum — not the administration. What will happen is UGC will make some suggestions, Senate will make some suggestions and it will be put to a vote of the entire faculty."

Conference focuses on the male gender

BY MICHELLE MARTIN
Staff Reporter

Feminism might have to make room for company, as concern about men's issues is becoming a valid talking point.

The field of gender studies has traditionally focused on women's issues, while research focusing on male gender roles often has received less attention — until now. Although American women now have more freedom from gender expectations than ever before, many contend that men still are confined by certain perceptions of masculinity, said Linda Seidel, professor of English and event coordinator for the Women's and Gender Studies Conference.

"We talk about the gender constraints of women all the time," she said. "But men have a gender too, and men also deal with gender constraints."

The 14th WGST Conference that took place March 26 to 28 focused on today's boundaries of masculinity for the first time, she said. The conference addressed a diverse array of topics, including men in the media, masculinity, sexual violence and queer identity.

The conference also featured two pedagogy workshops for younger boys — one on high school sexuality and the other on the relationship between masculinity and school violence. These presentations showed young boys how to reconfigure their perception of masculinity, Seidel said.

"Men and boys police the boundaries of masculinity, so if you're a kid in middle school or high school you can get called names," she said. "And for a lot of kids that's really powerful."

Although men often are associated with

an identity of power, this mindset could ironically imprison them, she said.

"Men are told all of the time that they are the ones in power, but most men are not in power," she said. "A few men are in charge of the world, and the rest of them are really struggling most of the time."

Wolfgang Hoeschele, associate professor of geography, said America's male-dominated hierarchy probably helped cause the current economic recession. When a few men control most of the financial sector, they can become accustomed to exploiting those below them for their own reward, resulting in uncontrolled greed, he said.

"If you oppress others, you end up distorting yourself also," Hoeschele said.

Male stereotypes might contribute to terrorism and violence, and shows of male bravado can result in harmful behavior, he said.

"Rather than demonstrating strength, which is supposed to be the male thing, they demonstrate stupidity, like being able to drink a lot or being able to be violent," Hoeschele said.

The "boy turn" in gender study research might stem from numerous studies, headlines and events such as the school shootings, all suggesting boys are developmentally piling in comparison to girls, according to a 2003 study by Marcus Weaver-Hightower in the Review of Educational Research.

"[These occurrences] all have placed boys, their socialization, and questions of power, privilege and violence at the center of public attention," Weaver-Hightower wrote in the study.

Males maintain high dropout rates, disciplinary rates and special education placement in schools, according to Weaver-Hightower.

Meanwhile, male college enrollment is falling.

Truman's student body is 42 percent male and 58 percent female, according to The Institute for Partner Education & Development. For the last five years, the numbers have only varied by 1 percent.

Modern workplace and classroom settings have become increasingly feminine, favoring interaction-based teams rather than competition-based communication and production, according to some studies cited by Weaver-Hightower.

Freshman Alan Vaughn said he recently declared a minor in WGST and attended various presentations in the WGST Conference because of personal interest. Listening to the research about men helped him relate more to the typically female-oriented domain of gender studies, he said.

"It makes me more aware of how I act and how I talk, so that I'm careful not to carry on these stereotypes," he said.

From one of the presentations, Vaughn said he learned how language constrains gender into a binary system of male and female, although "in-between" states such as transgender are not quite labeled. As a result, both females and males conform themselves to certain stereotypes.

"[Men] have to be strong, they have to like sports, dress a certain way, act a certain way, be masculine," he said. "They can't like musicals or anything like that."

Vaughn said he gained some new perspectives from attending the conference, which ultimately made him question current gender norms for both men and women.

"This whole gender thing doesn't make a lot of sense," he said. "It needs to be changed somehow."

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New Class for Fall 2009

ED 483 Grantwriting Across The Disciplines

Days: Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Location: Violette Hall, room 1320

Instructor: Sam Minner

The objectives of this class are to introduce students to the fundamentals of locating sources of funding for external grants, preparing high-quality grant proposals, and effectively managing grants post-award. The course is open to students from all disciplines. It is offered for variable credit. Students registering for one semester-hour of credit will acquire information and skills related to locating sources of funding and preparing a basic grant proposal. Students enrolled for two semesters of credit will acquire the basic knowledge and skills previously noted and serve as co-authors as we collaboratively prepare one or more grant proposals. I will work with students enrolled for three semester-hours to identify a grant opportunity and prepare a proposal to the relevant funding agency.

There will be no required textbook for this class.

Enrollment is limited to 15 students.

If you have questions, please call Dr. Minner at 4384 or email at minner@truman.edu