



CONFERENCE CHAMPS

Women win ninth straight title

Sports Page 15

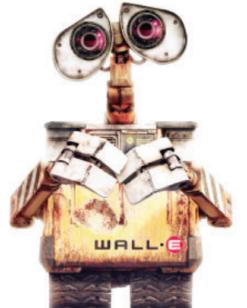
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

Celebrating 100 years as the University's student-produced newspaper

WILL WALL-E WIN?

Reviewer makes his predictions for this year's Oscar winners

TruLife Page 9



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Stimulus money would help Pershing reach the finish line



Amy Gleaves/Index

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, R-Mo., visited Truman Monday afternoon to speak with Interim University President Darrell Krueger regarding the University's financial needs and federal stimulus money. Gov. Jay Nixon announced Friday that Pershing Building would receive partial funding for renovations.

Pershing project continues

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
Editor in Chief

After a three-week hiatus, Pershing Building is moving forward again, but this time Truman only has been guaranteed about half of the necessary funding.

Gov. Jay Nixon halted several capital improvement projects — like Pershing Building — across the state at the end of January because of uncertainty as to whether the sale of MOHELA assets could fund the renovations (as originally planned in former Gov. Matt Blunt's Lewis and Clark Initiative). Nixon announced Friday that after reviewing the projects put on hold, 18 will receive funding for completion while 12 others will remain without funding until an additional source can be identified or until MOHELA can make the necessary payments, according to a press release issued from the governor's office.

With Nixon's announcement came the allocation of \$10 million for Pershing Building, a project that originally had been slated for \$21.6 million under Blunt's initiative. Interim University President Darrell Krueger said the University will take the money available right now and begin the

first phase of the project — which would include nursing, communication disorders and exercise science labs — with the idea that more money would have to come later for completion.

"We think we can get that new phase onto the building," he said. "In some ways it's good because then we can move people into that building as we're remodeling the old one. We're hoping that somewhere — which we don't know where — the governor will find the rest of the money for Pershing."

One path to the necessary funding for the rest of the Pershing Building renovations could be the federal stimulus package signed into law Tuesday by President Obama. Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, R-Mo., visited campus Monday afternoon to speak with Krueger regarding Truman's expectations from the package and how the University would be able to access it. Although Truman hasn't been guaranteed any money from the package, Luetkemeyer said the stimulus money likely would go to projects around the state that are "shovel ready," which is the current status of Pershing Building.

"As far as the stimulus package is concerned, Please see MOHELA, Page 7

College rankings face potential moratorium

General secretary of AAUP seeks to change competition

BY JANE KRIENKE
Staff Reporter

In an effort to refocus the goals of colleges and universities to better serve students, the general secretary of the American Association of University Professors is calling for a moratorium on the U.S. News & World Report college rankings.

In a letter addressed to President Obama and members of Congress released Feb. 11, Gary Rhoades, newly appointed general secretary of the AAUP, said he thinks academia is dominated by an individual-focused, status- and revenue-seeking orientation. Rhoades said nothing captures this attitude more than participation in rankings, such as the U.S. News & World Report rankings.

Rhoades was unavailable for comment.

The U.S. News & World Report ranking system has been published annually since 1987. Robert Morse, a journalist at U.S. News & World Report, has developed the rankings since the late 1980s, and Morse said he thinks the rankings provide a valuable resource for consumers.

"We believe we are providing information to prospective students and their parents to help them decide the relative merits of choosing one school over another, so they can compare schools to one another," Morse said. "That's the core reason we're doing it: to provide consumers with information that they may find helpful in deciding which school to go to over another."

Regina Morin, associate vice president for enrollment management said Please see RANK, Page 7

A.T. Still extends Magruder's contract

BY JOHN MOENSTER
Assistant News Editor

A.T. Still University is bringing back Jack. Peter W. Detweiler, chair of A.T. Still University's Board of Trustees, announced last Wednesday that former Truman State University President Jack Magruder's contract as A.T. Still University President extended beyond its original ending date, June 30, 2010.

"The Board is delighted with the progress of A.T. Still under [Magruder's] leadership and looks forward to his continued guidance as our president," Detweiler said. "The Board was enthusiastic and unanimous in its decision."

Detweiler said Magruder's talent and experience make him the correct person to continue to lead A.T. Still. This multi-year extension will permit President Magruder to lead A.T. Still through the next strategic planning cycle and carry it well into implementation, he said.

In a Board meeting last Saturday, Magruder said that appointing a search committee to hire a new president was considered, but the Board decided to avoid the search and expense to keep things running smoothly.

Magruder said the contract extension was exciting. "[The Board] has treated me so well, the faculty and students are so helpful and everybody is dedicated — in a way [this] Please see MAGRUDER, Page 7



Jack Magruder

Creative writing proposed as new BFA program

BY JOHN MOENSTER
Assistant News Editor

Student writers seeking inspiration might have found their muse as Truman plans the development of a Creative Writing major.

Priscilla Riggle, Chair of the English and Linguistics Department, said student interest in creative writing has grown nationally during the past few years. Riggle said that offering a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing has been discussed off and on for about five years.

Riggle said that in consultation with Doug Davenport, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Provost Troy Paino, a sub-committee of the creative writing faculty was formed to research other schools' programs. The committee discovered there is no BFA in Creative Writing program offered at a public university or college in the state of Missouri, Riggle said.



Krista Goodman/Index

Sophomore Jared Cline, junior Michelle Blaser and senior John McDonough wait for clients in the Writing Center. They said they wish the creative writing major was offered during their freshman years.

"We feel like this would be great not just for Truman, but for the state of Missouri, to have a place where students who want to develop this area of

expertise can go," Riggle said.

Riggle sent out a mass e-mail to the English department Feb. 8 to determine the number of students who

would consider switching majors to a BFA in Creative Writing. Riggle said she has received about 100 student responses expressing interest or support

for the program. Riggle also said she received a handful of e-mails from students saying they are not interested in switching programs, but still think it is a good idea.

"I see that as an overwhelmingly positive response, which I expected, but I was surprised at how many students actually e-mailed me back," Riggle said.

Before the program is established, Riggle said it must go through due process. Davenport currently has the formal proposal, she said. It then will go to the Undergraduate Council and Faculty Senate. Riggle said if the proposal is approved by those two bodies it then will go to the Provost, then the President of the University and then to the State of Missouri.

"It's a little bit of a tight timeline, but we hope if it is approved that it can go online in the fall," Riggle said.

Riggle said she has received e-mails from students asking if they Please see WRITING, Page 7

INSIDE | this issue

A love affair with learning

Columnist Megan Klico says liberal arts needs a new perspective



See Opinions, Page 5

New Mexican eatery in town

El Agave Azul will replace Country Kitchen in March



See News, Page 2

Debater travels to Japan

Chris Girouard selected to the U.S. debate team that will tour Japan.



See TruLife, Page 13

WEATHER

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Rain/Snow	Partly Cloudy
High 28 Low 13	High 39 Low 19	High 30 Low 16