

NATIONAL PREVIEW



Women's swim team will send 16 to NCAA meet

Sports Page 15

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

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

JAZZFEST

Musicians perform at the 41st annual JazzFest



TruLife Page 9

Thursday, March 5, 2009

www.trumanindex.com

Kirkville, Mo. 63501



Krista Goodman/Index

Freshman Thomas Boettcher gave a speech Wednesday morning in his Comm 170 class. The curriculum commission is now debating the future of the public speaking class.

Curriculum faces reform

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
Staff Reporter

The curriculum committee is working with the health and exercise science department and the communication department to make changes to the essential skills requirements.

David Hayes, chair of the academic affairs committee, said the curriculum commission has been meeting for more than two and a half years to redesign Truman's curriculum. The committee sent out a 17-page survey asking about the current curriculum as well as proposals for changes and revealed the results at the University conference.

The results included students' opinions about the negative aspects of Health 195, including long, narrow lecture rooms with poor acoustics

and class sizes too large to facilitate individual behavior change.

Reacting to this information, the health and exercise department began working on proposals to change the way the class is taught.

"We were all ... very impressed with their proactive approach," Hayes said. "We are all excited about it."

Christopher Lantz, department chair of health and exercise science, said he thinks the institution has a moral and curricular responsibility to provide for students' well being, and his department will continue to do so.

"If you look at the data that the curriculum commission collected with that survey, the results of which they presented at the University conference, students very clearly said, 'We Please see CURRICULUM, Page 7

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Developmental disability board purchases a new building, providing more space for hosting events.

Two Greek organizations face probation

BY JESSICA RAPP
News Editor

Sigma Sigma Sigma and Sigma Tau Gamma are finished with disciplinary hearings under the student conduct code and now face probation for an alcohol-related incident that took place in December.

Senior Elise Bailey, Tri-Sigma president, said one of the organization's members went to a party at the Sig Tau house and returned to a residence hall intoxicated. A student adviser called the Department of Public Safety, and that member was cited for a minor in possession of intoxicants.

Bailey said the girl told the DPS officer that Sig Tau members had forced her to drink, but that she later wrote a formal letter retracting that statement.

"I think she said that out of fear," Bailey said. Tri-Sigma had a conduct hearing Feb. 20, which resulted in sanctions for violating three sections of the code, including two for alcohol and drug-related misconduct. The organization now faces probation until Dec. 31, 2009, and must review and develop a Please see PROBATION, Page 7

Professors injured in crash Sunday

BY MARGARET HOOPER
Staff Reporter

Two professors were injured in a car accident last weekend, but escaped without life-threatening injuries.

History professor Martha Rose, was driving eastbound on Highway 36 Sunday with colleague Steven Reschly, history department chair, in a 1993 Mercury van. At about 11 a.m., Rose ran into the rear of a 1994 GMC, also eastbound, driven by Pamela Adamson of Mooresville, Mo., according to a Missouri State Highway Patrol crash report.

State Trooper A. McAtee said the vehicle driven by Adamson skidded off the right side of the road while the vehicle driven by Rose ran off the left side of the road into the median and caught fire. McAtee confirmed that Adamson sustained moderate injuries and was transported by Chillicothe ambulance to the Hedrick Medical Center. Both Rose and Reschly sustained serious injuries and were taken by Life Flight to St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City.

A spokesperson for St. Luke's Hospital confirmed Wednesday afternoon that both Rose and Reschly are in good condition.

Professor of psychology Sherri Palmer said the professors will return to Kirkville this weekend.

"Their injuries were not life threatening, but they were serious," Palmer said. "They will have to have more surgery in the future and are both looking at a long recovery process."

Please see CRASH, Page 7

Poker face



Nikos Papadopoulos, a senior math major, plays Texas Hold'em Wednesday night in the Student Union Building Activities Room. The game was hosted by the American Marketing Association, and many students turned out to test their card-playing skills before leaving for Midterm Break.

Mayank Dhungana/Index

College of Arts and Sciences to be divided

BY MARGARET HOOPER
Staff Reporter

Provost Troy Paino announced Wednesday evening that he will split Truman's College of Arts and Sciences into three schools of equal size: the School of Science and Mathematics, the School of Social Science and Humanities and the School of Arts and Letters.

Paino said he decided restructuring was necessary because the size of the College of Arts and Sciences, which encompasses 19 departments, made communication more difficult than most smaller schools, whose deans have fewer departments to report on.

Douglas Davenport, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he agrees with the Provost's plan.

"It is very challenging to have one dean responsible for 80 percent of the faculty," Davenport said. "There are over 300 faculty members that are a part of the college of arts and sciences."

The sheer size of the college makes giving each department the attention it deserves difficult and part of a dean's job is to do strategic planning for the future, he said.

Please see RESTRUCTURING, Page 7

NETWORKING QUALMS

Spending long periods of time online could change a person's genetic make-up, according to a 1998 study by Dr. Robert Kraut, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University

An online debate

"Biologist," the journal of the Institute of Biology, published a report by Aric Sigman claims that overuse of the Internet could cause social isolation which is linked to disease

Other researchers think these claims are faulty and suggest that internet use can actually have benefits, including increasing the user's happiness.

“The open question is, does loneliness lead to more Internet use, or does more Internet use lead to loneliness?”

Social network users sign in to debatable health implications

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
Staff Reporter

Doctors and researchers are debating the health effects of using the Internet to socialize.

"Biologist," the journal of the Institute of Biology, published a report by Aric Sigman Feb. 19, triggering controversy among professionals and articles in response to British news outlets like the BBC and the Daily Mail.

The article, "Well Connected?: The Biological Implications of Social Networking," uses information from a 1998 study by Dr. Robert Kraut and states that social isolation caused by increased use of the Internet and social networking sites causes negative health effects. These effects include changes in genetic transcripts, increased chances of stroke and dementia and a higher susceptibility to the common cold and influenza.

Social isolation is linked to alterations in human gene transcription, including those involved in immune activation, reaction to illness or stress and cell proliferation, according to a press release by Sigman summarizing his findings.

Sigman told the BBC that he thinks it is absolutely essential for humans to physically interact with each other.

"There are biological changes that happen for the better, there are also links with rates of disease and even early death, so this is a much bigger discussion than just whether people are using Facebook or Twitter or whatever," Sigman said.

However, not all professionals are convinced by Sigman's report.

John Grohol, founder and CEO of PsychCentral.com, said he disagrees with Sigman's report.

"It's fairly ridiculous to make that claim that Dr. Sigman did, which is that the Internet could directly lead to health issues," Grohol said. "The same study that Dr. Sigman cited was later refuted by the exact same author, Dr. [Robert] Kraut, who actually has shown that there are benefits."

In an article published on PsychCentral, Grohol wrote that contrary to Sigman's report, using the Internet to socialize can improve people's health. He cited a 2009 Ko and Kuo study

Please see NETWORKING, Page 7

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Design by Antoniette Bedessie/ Index

INSIDE | this issue

Midterm break makeover

Columnist Zach Vicars suggests Midterm Break alternatives



See Opinions, Page 5

Recycling revamping

Recycling Center tackles budget crisis with a few tweaks



See News, Page 8

Just not that into it

Reviewer finds cast in 'He's Just Not That Into You' disappointing.



See TruLife, Page 12

WEATHER

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Scattered T-storms
High 69 Low 40	High 65 Low 50	High 63 Low 43