

Community reacts to Haiti

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

Northeast Missouri residents have responded to calls for contributions to assist millions of victims of the earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12, which reduced the country's capital Port-au-Prince to rubble and left more than 70,000 people dead and thousands homeless.

Despite an aftershock Wednesday, which had a magnitude of 6.1 struck 35 miles outside the city of Port-au-Prince, aid efforts continue to pour into Haiti and even people in Northeast Missouri are doing their bit to make a difference.

Dean Valkenaar, executive director of the North Central Missouri chapter of the American Red Cross, said the organization has received monetary donations from scores of residents concerned about the Haitian people. Most donations were given through Short Message Sending and online payments. Walk-in contributions have donated more than \$1,500 to the local chapter of the Red Cross.

"The response has been very outstanding," Valkenaar said. "The community has responded more than just through our chapter. There has been a large outpouring

of compassion from our community, a lot of elderly people coming with donations.

"The majority of donations are in small denominations, and it's ongoing. We have had people contacting us to do fundraisers, and we expect a drastic increase in the coming weeks. This is just the beginning."

The local chapter of the Red Cross covers eight counties and has been working with other organizations to coordinate efforts to mobilize resources.

At Truman, a number of organizations are running fundraising campaigns, the proceeds of which will be submitted to the Red Cross.

LiFT, a student-run organization on campus, is raising money to provide children in Haiti with clean drinking water.

"We are receiving direct donations and selling bracelets," LiFT president junior Luu Duong said. "All of the money we receive through our fundraising campaign will [go] towards assisting the people in Haiti."

Students at the University of Missouri-Kansas City are also mobilizing resources for the same cause. John Austen, UMKC public relations officer, said students at the school were engaging in a number of programs to assist the victims of the earthquake.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Freshmen Zoe Matlock sat at a table in the Student Union Building Tuesday to raise money for Haiti with the organization Lift, Love in Future Tense.

Blackboard causes confusion

Blackboard changes leaves some teachers struggling to adapt

BY DAN WARNER
Staff Reporter

Blackboard is helpful to many instructors and a mortal enemy to others. The recent changes in the Blackboard platform have created debate.

Truman implemented the new platform, Blackboard 9, at the beginning of the semester. Teachers and students who use Blackboard regularly are dealing with this adjustment.

Communication department chair Elizabeth Clark said she is glad Blackboard is an option for faculty and student interaction outside of the classroom. However, she said the switch to Blackboard 9 created some problems with faculty trying to figure it out.

"There is a bit of a learning curve in terms of utilizing the new Blackboard," Clark said. "It does take some time to learn where things are and

how they function in the new version."

Blackboard promotes the new platform for its easier navigation, as most areas can be accessed from the home page. The new version also gives students more control with group work. One of the features Clark said she misses from the previous version of Blackboard is the wiki tool, which allowed instructors to easily track student contributions to a single document.

Clark said one of the problems with the switch is timing.

"I think it would be better positioned to take place in

early summer so that people had time to go to workshops ... and then had some time to practice with it over the summer," she said.

Sherry Dare, technology specialist for Information and Technology Services, said ITS could be looking into creating a wiki tool for the new platform. She said this platform was chosen for ease of use and the best thing for instructors who are having difficulty with Blackboard is to attend the workshops ITS is offering.

Dare said that in the past, there haven't been a lot of interface changes, which could contribute to difficulties in

adjusting to Blackboard 9.

Bonnie Mitchell, a member of the Society and Environment Department, said the implementation of the new platform has been an issue for her.

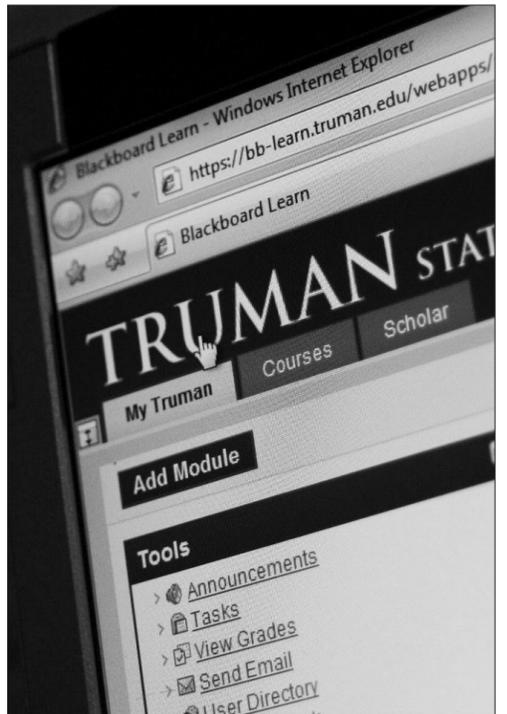
"I'd rather focus on learning other things," she said. "But this system I think will work fine."

Mitchell said the main problem she has encountered with the new interface is loading time. She said the previous system worked better in some ways, but ITS is working to fix the bugs in the new system.

"I really appreciate how responsive [ITS workers] are because they really respond quickly to try to solve problems," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said she hopes test taking on Blackboard 9 will not have as many problems.

ITS is offering a workshop Friday for navigating the new Blackboard. Online video tutorials also are available on the Blackboard page.



Amy Vicars/Index
When ITS implemented the new platform of Blackboard during Winter Break, it left teachers confused. ITS offers online video tutorials on the Blackboard page.

NEW HOURS

Starting January 19th



"Need I Say More"

**will remain
open until 6:00 pm
Tuesday thru Saturday**

Free Wi-Fi!

**Check us out on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter -
Stevegarden Deli**

•••••••• 660-665-4500 ••••••••

www.stevesgardendeli.com



Get The Latest School News Without Getting Ink All Over Your Hands.

www.trumanindex.com