

Girls get Pie'd



Amy Vicars/Index

Freshman Tori Crews shows off her recently pied face while working the "Pie a Panda" booth for Tau Lambda Sigma on Tuesday. The service sorority charged \$1 to pie a TLS member and \$2 to pie anyone. TLS was raising money to improve their service opportunities.

Truman starts chapter of Toastmasters

BY KAITLIN DAVIS
Staff Reporter

New to the Truman State University campus this fall is the Toastmasters International Club, a public speaking organization.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit international organization aimed at helping people become more competent and comfortable speaking in front of any audience.

Junior Laipeng Zheng, student adviser to the Truman Toastmasters Club, said he has been working for the last month to establish a Toastmasters International Club at Truman, which will give students the opportunity to improve their leadership and communication skills.

Zheng said he heard about Toastmasters from business professors who suggested establishing a Truman chapter.

"When I did a Google search, I realized that several Missouri colleges had this Toastmasters Club in their school," Zheng said. "Then I started thinking 'Why shouldn't there be one at Truman?'"

In order for the Truman club to become rec-

ognized by Toastmasters International, the club needs to have at least 20 members, Zheng said. Any student interested in improving their leadership and communication skills should attend the meetings, he said.

"The student joining fee is \$27 and then the membership fee is \$20 every six months," Zheng said. "But really, it comes down to good training for a little more than \$3 per month."

Zheng said official members will receive an official training manual from Toastmasters International and will be expected to attend the weekly meetings.

"Members will be expected to complete the speeches assigned in the manual during the regular meetings," Zheng said.

Zheng said a member gets recognition once they give a certain number of speeches and once they reach this lower limit, they earn more recognition with every 10 speeches they give.

Zheng said members will play different leadership roles during the meetings in addition to practicing their communication skills. Members will rotate through the positions of timer, evaluator and listener.

Zheng said Toastmasters is about preparing

individuals for the real world and giving them a skill they can use when applying for future jobs.

"People work hard and earn the recognition so they can put Toastmasters on their resumé and showcase their communication skills," Zheng said. "Future employers will be impressed by a Toastmasters member, as it is well-known in the business world."

Toastmasters International is present in more than 100 countries around the world. Clubs made up of business professionals make up approximately 70 percent of Toastmasters membership with student chapters making up the remaining 20-30 percent.

Katherine Jackson, associate dean of the school of business and co-adviser of Truman Toastmasters, said in order to bring Toastmasters to Truman, Zheng and herself would need to establish an official club.

"We had to have six members to gain official status as a club," Jackson said. "This gives us access to be able to make room more resources."

Jackson said she doesn't want people to think Toastmasters will be intimidating and that members will be expected to give difficult speeches. She said the speeches are assigned

approximately two weeks in advance to give members time to prepare.

"They will only be two to three minute speeches, and it will just give you an idea of what you do wrong during a speech, and then members will make suggestions on how to improve," Jackson said.

Jackson said critiquing other members is an important part of the Toastmasters process. She said students will have official forms for evaluations that will be provided by Toastmasters.

Junior Chris Wall said he was introduced to Toastmasters International by Zheng. Wall said they have been working to raise awareness about the club since then.

"Zheng and I have been putting out flyers and writing on sidewalks just trying to spread the word because the club is so new," Wall said.

Wall said he has been a part of other clubs in the past but personally was drawn to the Toastmasters Club because of the relaxed environment it provides to practice public speaking.

"If you do not like those very high-pressure situations, then Toastmasters might be something for you to look into," Wall said.

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