

Incumbents announce candidacy

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The president and vice president of Student Senate will seek a second term in April.

Isaac Robinson and Kyle Olmstead, both junior political science majors, announced Monday their work is not complete as the heads of the Senate. So far, no other parties have filed for the presidential race.

Robinson said he wasn't initially planning on seeking a second term, but after hearing from students who wanted him to run again, he made the decision to run with Olmstead after ensuring he wasn't interested in pursuing the presidency.

Last year, Robinson and Olmstead took 47.4 percent of the student vote in a three-way race.

Robinson said their campaign strategy will remain mostly the same from last year. The two will focus on getting out and talking to students, student organizations and classes. But, Robinson said, they have more experience entering into this election, which he said he thinks will work in their favor. Robinson served as vice president as a sophomore.

No other Senate members have confirmed they will run for president, Robinson said. He said some who were considering running have decided against it for now because he and Olmstead will be on the ballot.

Robinson said he wasn't sure if their early declaration will scare off competitors or encourage them.

"It's hard to tell," Robinson said. "It could go either one of those ways. I hope it doesn't necessarily scare off a lot of people. I hope to have people come out and challenge myself and Kyle on our ideas for the next year."

Regardless, Robinson said he and Olmstead will host campaigning events in the coming months.

Elections are April 4, 5 and 6. A debate or open forum probably will precede voting, Robinson said.

To join Senate, each member must be a full-time student and have a 2.75 cumulative GPA, said senate speaker Danny Hague. Hague said the filing process will begin in March. To file for presidency, each nominee must file a petition with at least 150 signatures, said Scott Alberts, Student Senate adviser.

Robinson is one of two presidents in the past 10 years to seek a second term. Former senate president Lizz Esfeld ran for a second term in 2009, losing the election by 433 votes to JoEllen Flanagan.

Alberts said more than one party on the ballot gives student government more legitimacy, but doesn't mean lone candidates on past ballots haven't been qualified.

Hague said other issues appearing on the April ballot are FAC elections, the approval of the athletic fee and the activities fee.

Trumpet player performs



Laura Tyler/Index
Guest musician Brian Rood, a trumpet player in the Kansas City Symphony, performed on Jan. 24 in Ophelia Parish Performance Hall. Rood played pieces including Tomaso Albinoni's Concerto in D minor and Herbert L. Clarke's Carnival of Venice Variations.

Sigma Xi presents NASA speaker

BY CHRIS STEINAUER
Staff Reporter

Last Thursday, NASA researcher Marc Imhoff gave a presentation in the SUB Alumni Room.

Imhoff's presentation, "Planetary Secrets: The Secret Lives of Storms, Deserts and Fires," included images and data from the Earth Orbiting System project. EOS satellites collect information on fires, pollution through air travel, weather and world carbon production and usage. He discussed how the EOS team's

research has been used by governments and organizations with disaster relief, pollution control and fire prevention and maintenance.

"We monitor fires, so a lot of different agencies around the world use our data for fire control and planning for potential fires," Imhoff said. "The EPA uses our [findings] to look at air quality around the country."

Kirksville's Sigma Xi chapter, a national scientific research society, selected Imhoff as this year's presenter from a list of what Sigma Xi calls "distinguished lecturers."

Michael Goggin, Sigma Xi's presi-

dent elect, said the list of speakers range in topics and areas of expertise.

"[The lecturers] are people who agree to give presentations on their research to general audiences," Goggin said. "[The presentations are] about promoting science and scientific research."

The Kirksville chapter of Sigma Xi was established in 1989 and involves both Truman State University and A.T. Still University. Sigma Xi's goal is to encourage and enhance appreciation and support of scientific research and to foster creativity in scientific and techno-

logical investigations, according to the local chapter's website. The organization has its annual banquet in conjunction with a visit from a distinguished lecturer.

Imhoff ended his presentation with a short lecture on the Earth's carbon output and how the increasing human population and advances in technology interact with the Earth's net output. He also discussed population capacity, climate change and underwater satellite mapping.

After Imhoff finished his presentation, the researcher answered questions from audience members

that ranged from inquiries about underwater imaging, which is currently in the works, to the cost of the EOS project and the missions that followed.

Sophomore Shelynda Blakely attended Imhoff's presentation. She said it was both interesting and eye-opening.

"I think one of the things that struck me is just how interrelated everything is," Blakely said. "Kind of like 'We're all in this together. Earth's going to reach its carrying capacity and everybody's involved in making it better.'"

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