

Students work to heal Japan

BY CHARUNDI PANAGODA
Staff Reporter

Junior Kana Agatsuma was talking with her mother in Niigata, Japan on Skype when the tsunami hit. Senior Wataru Oe was sleeping when a friend called to tell him. Junior Reina Koyano was enjoying the last days of Midterm Break when the disturbing news came.

An off-shore megathrust earthquake with an 8.9 magnitude caused a catastrophic tsunami to reach Japan's Pacific coast March 11, leading Truman students to take action.

Koyano said she desperately wanted to help raise money for the victims. She was immediately contacted by Oe, who was trying to gather all seven students from Japan and a professor on campus to start a fundraising campaign.

After numerous calls and emails, Japanese students met Sunday night to plan to help the disaster relief efforts. Koyano already had begun to make posters, bumper stickers, bracelets and T-shirts. Everything was ready for Monday, when they planned to reserve a table on campus and get the "Help Ease Aid Lend Japan" fundraiser going.

Come Monday, they realized it was not going to go as smoothly as they had hoped. Oe found out the Center for Student Involvement had a two-day waiting period before anyone could reserve space for donation tables, causing them to book an available spot in Violette Hall. Also, the campus required them to be an organization to advertise and put up posters. They didn't have time to apply to become an organization if they wanted to send immediate assistance.

Originally, the Japanese students had wanted to run the fundraiser with the Society for Sino-American Students. However, they decided to be independent of any student organizations and



Joyce Wong/Index

Tokyo native junior Reina Koyano shows off some of her t-shirt designs she created to help raise money for H.E.A.L. Japan.

take action as a nation and founded H.E.A.L. Japan, an independent support group.

"We didn't want it to be a certain type of organization because that would limit other organizations wanting to help us if they didn't like that organization," Agatsuma said. "The focus was we wanted to help Japan, and we wanted to prevent anything like

background stuff [of student organizations]."

SSAS, Namaste Nepal, African Students Association and International Club gave their support for H.E.A.L. Japan. Sponsorship came from the International Student Affairs Office, Koyano said, but the ISAO couldn't directly fund them to print posters or T-shirts.

Koyano said Randee Rae

Phelps from ISAO emailed Koyano saying if they needed free printing, they could use the printer in her office.

Even so, printing the posters was not easy. Getting approval from CSI was time consuming. Koyano said many campus policies kept getting in the way of having their merchandise approved. She had to remove the school name from the H.E.A.L. Japan bumper sticker because they were making money by selling them. The title "Pray for Japan" on the school website banner had to be changed to "Help for Japan" because the word "pray" was potentially controversial, Koyano said.

"It felt like [Truman] didn't understand the urgency that we really needed to start because people were actually dying," Agatsuma said. "I know that there's a system. But they were like we [Japanese students] needed to be an organization. We were just students who wanted to help our country."

Koyano said she cannot imagine how much money will be needed to repair the damage done in Japan. AIR Worldwide, a firm that provides risk modeling from natural catastrophes and terrorism, put early estimates of financial damage for Japan to be from \$15 to \$35 billion in American money.

"I never thought that our generation would have to worry about such a huge problem including the nuclear radiation thing," Koyano said. "I didn't think I would ever have to worry about

that. People are saying it's mostly the northern areas that are really damaged, but entire Japan is damaged and people are hurt. That includes my family and friends. The least we could do from here is to send some money."

Because the monetary system in Japan is different than America, Truman Japanese students had to find a trusted organization for safe and guaranteed transfer of funds, Agatsuma said. They decided to give all the donations collected by the end of the semester to American Red Cross, which already had set up a fund for Japan, Oe said.

"I want to emphasize that we need help," Oe said. "Japan needs help. Right now financial support is the most effective way. If you think about it, one day your hometown, your country, is in a devastating catastrophe. It's not something that you can easily tolerate."

The U.S. Geological Survey named the 2011 Japanese tsunami and earthquake the world's fourth largest since 1900. Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan called

it the "toughest and most difficult" crisis to hit Japan since World War II. The National Police Agency of Japan reported more than 9,000 people killed and more than 12,000 people missing as of March 22 in the affected Tohoku region. Millions are stranded in evacuation centers without adequate food, water or health care. In addition to the devastation across 17 prefectures, the tsunamis also damaged reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant creating the possibility of a nuclear crisis.

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Wataru Oe
senior

Lincoln Days unites Republicans

BY ASHLEY JOST
Staff Reporter

A man's voice speaks quickly through a microphone while he calls out numbers. Members of the audience raise their hands. One man, reluctant to bid any higher at the request of his wife, is called out by the auctioneer about who wears the pants in his marriage, and the audience breaks out in laughter. Those who aren't interested in the items up for auction find enjoyment by sipping iced tea and talking among themselves.

This past Friday marked the 2011 Lincoln Day at the Journal Banquet Room. The event, hosted by the Adair County Republican Club, brought together Party representatives from all levels, including Adair County officials and members of Truman's College Republicans. This year's event included a buffet dinner, raffles and an auction with items such as signed pictures of President Ronald Reagan, cloth-

ing and patriotic home décor. The purpose of Lincoln Day is to celebrate the past, present and future of the Party, something Missouri Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer, District Nine, spoke strongly of during his keynote speech.

"[Lincoln Day] is a great place to be able to connect with all of the grassroots folks who are the network for which you build your campaign and get your support," Luetkemeyer said.

Junior Josh Foster, vice chairman of the College Republicans, said the opportunities available to students who attend these types of events

are great. The networking, Foster said, allows them to have a place at events such as Lincoln Day, which are made up of the people in the Missouri Republican Party.

"It's important for students to come to events like these to at least stay involved, stay informed, talk to representatives, senators and what not to know what's going on."

Josh Foster
junior

ly acknowledged Foster and commended the participation of the College Republicans as a whole in the party on both local and statewide scales.

"It's important for students to come to events like these to at least stay involved, stay informed, talk to representatives, senators and what not to know what's going on," Foster said. "Knowledge is power."

During Representative Luetkemeyer's speech, he both joking-



Laura Tyler/Index

Sophomores Josh Foster and Andrew Schwartz and junior Stewart Murray, members of College Republicans, attend Saturday's Lincoln Days.

Karen Elam, the second vice president of the Adair County Republican Club, organized the event and said the event's attendees are advocates of conservative politics and the Republican Party.

Political events like Lin-

coln Day embody more than advocacy. Luetkemeyer said there's an allowance for insight into what's going on in Washington, which balances out for students in the opportunities that become presentable to them through active participation, such as

internships and jobs.

"For all students, especially for political science majors, we're investing in our careers by going to these things," said junior Stuart Murray, College Republican representative. "This is how you meet people."

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General admission tickets cost \$7 each and will be available at Edna Campbells and the Truman State University Cashiers Window in McClain Hall.

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