



Lindsey Borgna/Index

Booths on The Quad yesterday displayed information about environmental projects and issues on campus, including ECO-Olympics, local food in the dining halls and Truman Recycling.

## Sustainability day draws variety of organizations

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS  
Staff Reporter

Truman State participated in Campus Sustainability Day for the first time from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. yesterday on The Quad allowing organizations to represent different aspects of sustainability.

The goal of Campus Sustainability Day was to educate students about different types of sustainability, said senior Katie Stark, Environmental Campus Organization president. Organizations such as the Compost Crew, Presidents Sustainability Action Committee, Market on the Mall, the Sierra Club and ECO had tables on The Quad representing their specific causes.

Campus Sustainability Day is a nationwide event supported by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and many other organizations.

The day was an open house where students could walk around to individual tables. ECO members made posters that were enlarged and hung on twine from the trees, Stark said. The posters provided information about topics of environmental interest or concern.

ECO is working to accomplish several goals during this school year. One goal, Stark said, is to implement meatless Mondays. This would mean more vegetarian options would be offered Mondays, though meat still would be provided. ECO also is continuing work on a bottled water ban that would reduce the availability of water bottles in vending machines on campus and increase spigots to refill them.

"In ECO, we just want to keep changing the structure of the University in many different forms of sustainability," Stark said.

The Compost Crew also used the day to focus on education by informing students about what the crew does on campus, compost intern junior Kyle LaVelle said.

"We just want to make sure that we are a presence in Truman's efforts to be more sustainable and let students know what we do and how they can get involved in that effort," he said.

A brochure about the Compost Crew was handed out at the compost table. The crew also used this as a fundraising opportunity. Planters, pots made of used bottles and filled with compost, were sold at the table. These planters contain everything needed for the plant to grow made of waste entirely from Truman's campus, LaVelle said.

The Compost Crew's main goal for this school year was to establish workers in Missouri Dining Hall to collect leftover food from the dining facility. After a trial run in October, Compost Crew members now are permanently stationed in Missouri Hall, LaVelle said. Now that this has been accomplished, the main goal is to inform students that the Compost Crew collects food waste from the dining halls, on-campus apartment and partners with the Rot Riders to collect food off-campus, and to get them involved, he said.

The President's Sustainability Action Committee also had a table on The Quad. Chief Information Officer Donna Liss said the table represented efforts made in the residence halls, information about the committee in general and a display about the biodiesel and compost projects. Laptops also were set up on the table to play presentations for students to observe easily.

Liss said the biggest goal for Campus Sustainability Day is to increase

awareness. One year-long goal is energy monitoring and trying to reduce the amount of energy the campus uses.

Jim Turner, chair of the Missouri chapter of the National Sierra Club, said the Sierra Club's table had information about the club in general and also about environmental issues the club addresses.

The Missouri chapter of the Sierra Club currently is focusing on promoting renewable energy, Turner said. The club is concerned particularly about the harmfulness of coal energy.

Campus Sustainability Day also sponsored the most recent market for Market on the Mall. The market did not have an additional information table on The Quad, but information was available at the regular market table, said senior Garrett Grider, who helped organize the market this year.

Market on the Mall is only during the fall, he said, but there is a possibility it could become a spring event sometime during the future. He said the market's goal is to continue to improve its growing and selling methods.

"We've really enjoyed the positive feedback from faculty and students," Grider said. "It's only going to continue to get better so we hope that everyone is going to be there to support us, and that includes the Kirksville community too."

This is the ninth annual Campus Sustainability Day, according to the AASHE website. Information about other schools participating in Campus Sustainability Day can be found at <http://www.aashe.org/campus-sustainability-day>.

## Students focus on disabilities

BY GRACE FREEMAN  
Staff Reporter

Students for Social Change is promoting disabilities awareness for its social justice event this year.

For the past three years, the organization planned events to raise awareness for social justice on campus. This year, Disability Awareness Week is designed to get students involved in a conversation about disabilities.

The week will begin Monday with a movie screening followed by disability monologues Tuesday, a double feature film showing Wednesday and a panel discussion Thursday.

Freshman April Lohrman has cerebral palsy and said she manages to get around campus and remain independent, but its frustrating when people

assume she needs help, or confuse her physical disability with a mental one.

"I thought going here would make it easier because people would think, 'Well she got in here, she must be smart and this is a hard school,' but they still talk to me like a toddler and people ask me what I'm doing here," she said.

Dealing with Kirksville's weather, loose bricks on campus and people constantly trying to help also bother her, she said.

She said she thinks Truman makes accessibility easy on campus with elevators, but she thinks there should be more crosswalks behind West Campus Suites and the Newman Center, after being hit by a car near the Newman Center last year, breaking her lower leg and right hip.

"There are a lot of people out there who are doing a phenomenal job of getting through school with a disability and it doesn't have to be something that you see," Disability Services Coordinator Vicky Wehner said. "I think we just need more awareness on campus."

Wehner said she takes care

of all aspects of disability student accommodations on campus. She provides help finding in-classroom and out-of-classroom assistance, whether it's proctoring exams, finding note-takers, converting text, making graduation accommodations, etc.

She said many students think Truman does not have any students with disabilities on campus because their disabilities aren't visible.

"Each year, complaints are made about parking spaces and people will say 'This person didn't look disabled to me,' she said.

For Disabilities Awareness Week, senior Kate Seaton, Students for Social Change co-president, said disabled poets and artists will speak about their challenges in today's society through poetry, prose and

monologues Tuesday on campus. I think that ideally a lot of the outcome has already happened — getting the dialogue out there and connecting groups that are all focusing on that issue. ▯

— Senior Kate Seaton  
Students for Social Change co-president

Student involvement is an important goal of Students for Social Change during this time each year, Seaton said.

"I think that ideally a lot of the outcome has already happened — getting the dialogue out there and connecting groups that are all focusing on that issue," Seaton

said. "Hopefully we'll be able to get a lot of different students who wouldn't really be involved in student disabilities dialogue or wouldn't be experienced with disability in their daily life because we have such a small disability population on our campus."

The films being shown will involve a woman who does documentary work in Africa, a man who was a co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 and a landmine survivor, and the experiences of children learning in a reverse-integration school, said senior Alexander Senger, Students for Social Change member.

"We're focusing on trying to break down barriers and kind of remove disabilities from the broken category . . . trying to change peoples perception of it," Senger said.

## SERVE recruits Greek Life to improve event

BY HUONG TRAN  
Staff Reporter

The SERVE Center is making changes to this year's Big Week of Giving after struggling to attract participants for the past few years.

By collaborating with Greek Life, scheduling the event one week later than normal to Oct. 31-Nov. 4 and replacing concerts with a volleyball tournament, the SERVE Center hopes to see a difference in turnout.

During the past, the week was scheduled the week before Halloween and people were too busy to volunteer, said senior Elizabeth Kroeger, SERVE center student coordinator.

The SERVE Center decided to have a volleyball tournament as the main event to get more people involved, rather than concerts like previous years, said senior Elizabeth Pulley, Big Week of Giving Coordinator. During years past, there have

been events conflicting with students' schedules like free concerts like Acapella Fest and TSODA and many organizations were busy with their social events.

All the money and canned goods raised from these events will go directly to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, and then will be distributed to Adair County residents in need, Kroeger said.

Sophomore Megan Sanders, Big Week of Giving assistant, said this year they are to contact many organizations within the Greek system to get as many people involved as possible.

Senior Garrett Exline, an Interfraternity Council intern, said this might be a good time because the Big Week of Giving occurs during early November as Thanksgiving approaches. He said he hopes these donations will help families that might not be able to afford Thanksgiving meals.

Exline said that previously Greek Life participated but wasn't actively involved in organizing the event. SERVE Center has been running the Big Week of Giving since 2009, but every year participation gradually has decreased. This year, the SERVE center asked if Greek Life would like to help find volunteers and organize it.

"We comprise of a pretty organized student body on campus," Exline said. "We are trying to find ways to improve Greek Life and the image on campus."

The volleyball tournament will be open to individuals and organizations. The fee for participation is \$20 or 20 canned goods per team of six to 10 members. They are expecting 30-50 teams to sign up for the tournament. On Monday, there will be trick-or-treating for canned goods with the help of the Greek Life interns, Alpha Phi Omega, Delta Sigma Theta and the IFC executive board.

Delta Sigma Theta has done the trick-or-treating event for the past few years.

"The SERVE Center and Greek Life interns reached out to us because it was our idea, our concept so they came to us so that they can learn better how to execute it since we executed it well in the past," said sophomore Brooke Thedford, Delta Sigma Theta social action co-chair.

Senior Cherrmain Jennings, Delta Sigma Theta president, said this collaboration will help reach a lot more people and ultimately collect more canned goods. She said she looks forward to more collaboration like this in the future.

Last year Big Week of Giving helped raise 31,000 pounds of food and \$2,225.

"The goal for this year is to collect as many canned goods as possible and also to show that Truman campus is capable of collectively doing major philanthropy besides Big Event," Exline said.

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