

Students gather to discuss gender neutral housing option



Kathleen Barbosa/Index

More than a dozen students attended Student Senate's Gender-Neutral Housing Forum on Tuesday evening at Ryle Hall Main Lounge. Above, junior Aaron Malin, President of the Student Association, and Director of Residence Life John Gardner led discussions and answered questions about gender-neutral housing at Truman State. Right, students listen as Malin and Gardner discuss the potential for a gender-neutral housing option at Truman.



Pickler Memorial makes archives digital

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Viewing a favorite professor's 1980s hairdo could just be one click away.

Within the next year, some editions of The Echo, Truman State's student-produced yearbook from 1901 to 2007, will become available for viewing online, said Amanda Langendoerfer, Head of Special Collections and Archives.

This effort is part of a digitization initiative started by Pickler Memorial Library during 2009, Langendoerfer said. The initiative will make many materials within the Special Collections and Archives department available at all times online, she said.

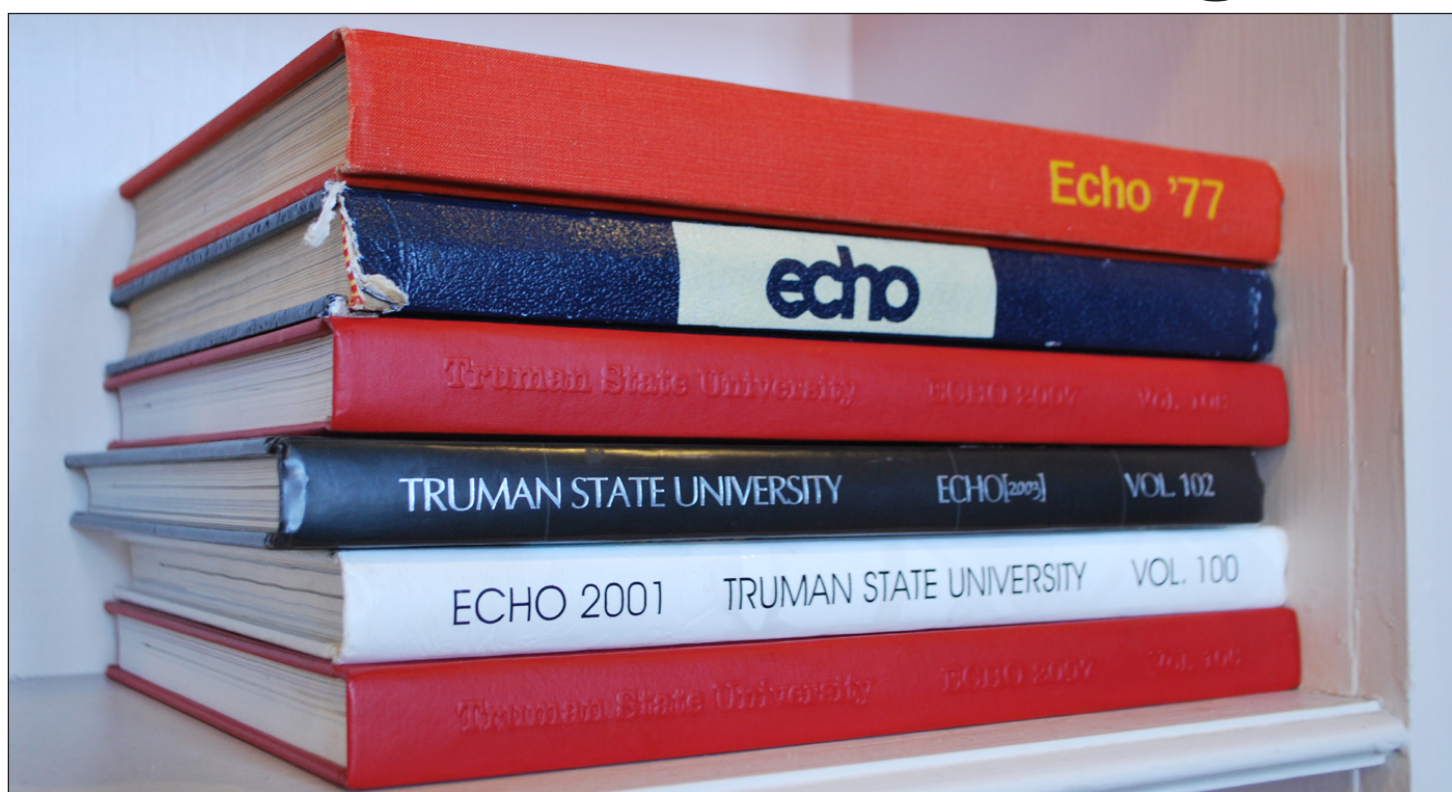
As part of the initiative, the department launched its digital library last May with five digitized collections, including Missouri Gold Rush letters and vintage sheet music, she said. Editions of The Echo are the next set of documents scheduled to be digitized, followed by some Missouri Civil War letters.

The Special Collections department decided to digitize The Echoes next because they are one of the department's most commonly-viewed collections and are an important part of Truman's history, Langendoerfer said. She said many alumni request to view old editions to reminisce or for genealogy research.

The Echo ceased publication during 2007 due to lack of funding and decreased student interest, according to a 2007 Index article.

There are several reasons for digitizing items like The Echo, Langendoerfer said. She said the library hopes to better preserve historic documents so they will be available to future generations. Digitization will also provide an enhanced experience for people viewing the documents, including transcriptions of text, zoom capabilities and keyword search options, she said.

The final goal is to make collections within the department more accessible



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Several copies of The Echo, Truman State's student produced yearbook until 2007, will be available online as a part of the Special Collections and Archives department. Several copies can be found currently in the Student Union Building.

to students and to the Kirksville community, she said.

Digital Collections Librarian Aaron Speight said making documents more accessible is a high priority because the department is not open during weekends and evenings.

"We're all about access," Speight said. "And 7:30 to 5 isn't always suitable for everyone, so we're hoping that people will be able to look at [collections] at two in the morning when the Red Bull kicks in."

Speight said to begin the process of digitizing a collection, Special Collections staff discuss which artifacts might be interesting to the public and check to see if copyright laws permit digitization of

those items. Then, Speight said he scans the item and inputs metadata about each object into pre-installed software.

Metadata is the information about each object, including information such as the creator and publication date, that accompanies the scanned image of the item online, he said.

"So with a 200-page yearbook, we have to insert that information 200 times so it's attached to each individual page," Speight said.

He said inputting that information for an entire yearbook can take as long as three hours.

Sophomore Jordyn Williams said she visited the Special Collections department for a class project and would have

benefited from being able to view the letters she needed during more convenient hours. Williams said transcriptions would have improved the quality of her research and made her more interested in the material.

Williams said she thinks digitizing historic documents is a good step for preservation and that The Echo is an important part of Truman's history.

"My mom went to school here and some of my other family members, so it might be cool to see their old yearbooks online," Williams said.

Extra copies of The Echo are available for purchase through the Special Collections department at library.truman.edu/archives/extraechos.asp.

Alcohol Awareness week seeks to inform students

BY NATASHA MCCALLISTER
Staff Reporter

Health students and Residence Life are teaming up to educate students about the dangers of alcohol consumption.

Senior Jasmine Johnson, Health 440 student, said a group in her class plans the activities for Alcohol Awareness week. She said the group is working with Residence Life and Gama, an organization that promotes healthy behaviors among college students. Johnson said her group is responsible for the Happy Hour Tables which are tables that provide information about alcohol awareness for each of the different themes during Alcohol Awareness Week. Johnson said a group of students from Health 440 choose to do this project every year.

Coordinator for Residence Life William Nelsen said he

will be advising the Health 440 students to help them plan the activities.

Nelsen said the activities are from an educational perspective and can help both students who have experience with alcohol and those who do not.

"We try to educate [students] what is the middle ground between the reasons why people would choose to [drink], but also what would be an appropriate way to engage and consume alcohol," Nelsen said.

Nelsen said he hopes the programs will be fun, educational and something students can take away with them for the rest of their life.

Junior Sean Trammel, Residence Life Student Advisor, said he is working with other Residence Life members for Alcohol Awareness Week to create an exciting event for the students. He said the ac-

tivity is called BAC to BAC Drinks. Trammel said this activity is to help students understand their blood alcohol concentration levels. He said there will be a DJ and games. He said students cannot get rid of or refill their cups of non alcoholic mixed drinks and will have to get another cup if they want more to drink. Trammel said the cups will show how much alcohol a person would have consumed at the end of the night.

Trammel said there will be a short presentation to sum up the program at the end explaining the risks of drinking and about blood alcohol concentration level. He said the activity will only take an hour and is open to anyone.

Alcohol Awareness Week starts April 2 and ends April 5. A list of week events, which take place at various locations around campus can be viewed on Truman's website.

Local police officer honored for actions

Officer Matthew Kellison received an award for saving a life

BY BETHANY BOYLE
Staff Reporter

A local law enforcement officer was recognized last month for his life-saving actions in the line of duty.

Officer Matthew Kellison, who started working on the Kirksville police force in November 2005, received the Public Safety Hero Award from the American Red Cross at the North Central Missouri Chapter Hero's Banquet March 22 for his role reviving an unconscious victim last September, according to a press release by the city of Kirksville.

Deputy Chief of Police Tim King said Kellison and Officer Juan Chairez, responded to a 911 call shortly after midnight Sept. 13, 2012. King said the officers discovered Kirksville resident Frankie Salsberry unconscious and unre-

sponsive on the kitchen floor in his home. King said Kellison immediately checked Salsberry for vital signs and, finding no pulse, began giving chest compressions.

King said Kellison and the other officer enlisted the assistance of a woman, another resident of Salsberry's house, to give ventilations as they continued to administer CPR. King said because of Kellison's immediate action, they were able to revive Salsberry by the time paramedics arrived, after which he was taken to the hospital to receive further care.

A nominee for the Public Safety Hero Award is a "person in an emergency service field such as the Police/Fire Department or EMT, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to save/protect another," according to the website for the American Red Cross.

"I can just tell you that he did what he's been trained to do," King said. "We're out there every day to serve and protect the public and that's what he was doing."