

Opera Theatre performs in original language



John O'Brien/Index
 Above, senior Megan Petrie performs during a rehearsal for "Il Campanello" on Monday night in Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Top right, members of the orchestra play under the direction of graduate student Filippo Ciabatti at Monday's rehearsal. Right, music professor Jacqueline Collett and Petrie reupholster a couch that is used during the production Monday afternoon. This production marks the first time in Truman Opera Theatre history that an opera is performed in its original language. It will occur Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in Ophelia Parrish.

Discussion encourages travel

Program encourages students to learn about other cultures

BY ANNA GRACE
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A recent program gave students a platform for discussing world topics on their minds.

"I See a World in Harmony" took place March 28 in the West Campus Suites multipurpose room. The program was sponsored by the Study Abroad Club and put together by study abroad ambassadors junior Briana Bonner, senior Kelsey Boeding and junior Julianne

Bauer, who, along with another study abroad ambassador, run the Study Abroad Club. As a Residence Life student advisor, Bonner said she thought it would be great to combine an event for international students, foreign exchange students, students returned from a study abroad experience and residents of West Campus Suites.

Bonner said she and Bauer presented at the event. Bonner said she spoke about how the stereotypes of Africa relate to the reality of the continent, which she has visited.

Bauer said Bonner had traveled to Botswana and brought videos from her travels to show the different sides of Africa. The other

ambassador who helped with the event, Boeding, traveled to Bulgaria, and Bauer said she described the post-communist country and some of the things she saw there, as well as how the country looked and the people's mentalities. Bauer, who traveled to Germany, said she talked about the lack of national pride in Germany because of the country's association with negative events during World War II.

The topics of discussion were not limited to the material of the presentations. Bonner said the group spoke about topics ranging from Islam Awareness Week, which was taking place at the time, to political discussions.

"Everyone said something and

had a reason for being there," Bonner said.

She said her goal was to give all populations at Truman State a chance to express themselves. Bonner said she would like to conduct the program again, but would like to have more people attend next time.

Bauer said she wanted the night to help people realize what is happening around the world. She said she is considering joining the Peace Corps and believes there should be as much communication as possible between countries. Bauer said she and her fellow ambassadors were texting and emailing contacts in countries they had visited to develop

the event. She said almost any nation in the world is excited Americans are coming to their country and are talking about events in their homeland.

She said the overall goal of the Study Abroad Club is to bring together students who have returned from their adventures abroad, exchange students who currently are attending Truman and students who might be considering studying abroad during their school careers.

Boeding said people are passionate about a place or people, and events like "I See a World in Harmony" provides them an opportunity to get together and talk about them.

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