



Freshmen Brittany Rempel, left, Sarah Engelskirchen, middle, and Alex Heberlein, right, play video games Oct. 6 at Centennial Hall. The gamers played to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network.

Alumna works with Romney campaign

BY DAN MIKA
Staff Reporter



Hillary Shoun

Alumna Hillary Shoun rediscovered her passion for politics during her time at Truman State, and is now working for U.S. Presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

Shoun, who graduated with a public communication degree during 2012, currently is working for Mitt Romney's presidential campaign as an events director in Colorado.

As an events director, she has organized rallies and mapped out tour schedules for notable Republicans such as Mitt and Anne Romney, Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and Florida Senator Marco Rubio when they visit the state.

"Whenever those people come through the state, I'm the one that's on the ground planning where they're going to go and the logistics of the events of their visits," she said. "No matter where in the state the event is, if it's going on, I have a hand in it."

Shoun's duties also include organizing campaign communications and lending a hand wherever she can, she said.

"It's a very wide job which encompasses many different areas of the campaign," she said.

Shoun's political activism started in high school, volunteering in Jefferson City for George Bush's 2004 presidential campaign and interning at the Missouri State Capitol. She said it wasn't until the end of her college career that she decided she wanted to pursue politics.

She said she still remembers how Truman prepared her for her career.

"I think learning to balance school, organizations and social life prepared me for this job because you

have to adapt quickly and think critically," Shoun said.

Activities also provided a way for Shoun to enhance her professional skills, as her résumé lists leadership positions with the Homecoming committee, the Panhellenic Council, Student Senate and the social sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha.

Kathryn Freeman, Alpha Sigma Alpha public relations officer, said Shoun frequently contacted the national organization on behalf of the Truman chapter. Freeman said she thinks the role Shoun played in the sorority helps with her political career.

Shoun said her favorite professor at Truman, James Cianciola, influenced her desire to pursue politics. Cianciola had kind words for his ex-student as well.

"[Hillary] understands that putting academic disciplines in conversation with one another in class and in papers provides the rich tapestry of thought the liberal arts is intended to evoke," he said. "I think it's wonderful that she is happy and successful doing the work she's doing."

Shoun offered some advice for students at Truman, saying that finding a passion is the best way to decide on a career.

"If you like politics, go with it. If you aren't, make an educated vote in November and find something else," Shoun said.

Playing for a cause

Freshman video game fan plays for 24 hours to raise money for charity

BY ANNA GRACE
Staff Reporter

When freshman gamer Alex Heberlein saw a chance to do something he loved to help a charity, he seized the opportunity.

Heberlein spent 24 hours playing Team Fortress 2 and horror games, and raised about \$85 for Children's Miracle Network during the process.

Heberlein said he decided to game for charity after getting the idea from the online discussion forum, Reddit. The program he signed up with, called "Extra Life," raises funds for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals by encouraging gamers to find sponsors willing to donate money to the cause. The gamers play for 24 hours straight.

The event, which thousands of gamers participate in, takes place Oct. 20, but due to scheduling conflicts, Heberlein played Oct. 6th, from 8 a.m. to 8 a.m. the next day. He played in the main lounge of Centennial Hall and welcomed anyone who wanted to join, as long as they provided their own gaming gear.

"Whatever [donations] people are willing to give us is fine," Heberlein said, but he hopes to reach his goal of \$500.

After the day of gaming, he had collected about \$85, but he is accepting donations until Oct. 20, and said those still interested in donating to the cause can do so by cash, check or at the official website,



Freshmen Alex Heberlein, left, Sarah Engelskirchen, middle, and Brittany Rempel, right, play video games Oct. 6. Heberlein played for 24 hours while Engelskirchen and Rempel offered support.

www.extra-life.org. On the website, one can donate with credit cards or PayPal.

Children's Miracle Network allows fundraisers to choose the hospital their donations benefit. Heberlein said he chose to send the donations to the St. Louis Children's Hospital because it is where his sister works as an X-ray technician.

"It's just one of those things that I felt compelled to do," Heberlein said. "I've been gaming most of my life, so the opportunity to help was something I couldn't pass up."

While gaming, Heberlein was joined by two friends, freshmen residents Brittany Rempel and Sarah Engelskirchen. They said Heberlein got them involved, and they were motivated to join by the opportunity to help a charity while doing something they enjoyed. Rempel said as a nursing major, she

was drawn to the event because of her personal interest in medically helping children.

"It's just a good cause, and video games are fun," Engelskirchen said. "I just want to help out."

Engelskirchen said she planned to mainly play Pokemon. Rempel also wanted to play Pokemon, as well as Assassin's Creed and other games.

Heberlein, Rempel and Engelskirchen played different games, but they all faced the challenge of staying awake for 24 hours to play. Rempel was relying on a lot of coffee to keep her awake.

Heberlein said he appreciated the company as well as the opportunity to give back to charity.

"I've [played for 24 hours] a couple of times before, but I've never had as good of a reason to as I do now," Heberlein said.

Classifieds

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For Rent: Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2013-2014 lease. New units with one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking and maintenance staff. For more information, call 660-341-5538 or visit www.wespaces.net

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Now Hiring: Bridal/Prom consultant. Looking for December graduate able to work 28-38 hours a week, including weekends, and available for training in October. Required: positive and energetic personality, ability to manage many details at once, and work well under pressure. Apply in-person at Teresa's Bridal Boutique, 101 S. Baltimore.

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