

Group gives AIDS perspective

BY BETHANY BOYLE
Staff Reporter

One campus group will attempt to combat the stigma about HIV by inviting students to walk through and a talk from Justin Miller, cofounder of U.S. CARE for AIDS.

Truman State's chapter of the CARE for AIDS organization will host an "Experience Event" from 5-7 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Baptist Student Union. CFA Events Director Sammi Ackerman said admission is free, and the event will feature a traditional Kenyan meal — including a vegetarian option — a makeshift CARE for AIDS center for participants to walk through and a talk from Justin Miller, cofounder of U.S. CARE for AIDS.

CARE for AIDS is a Kenya-based organization that provides holistic health care to people with HIV, Ackerman said. This includes health services, counseling, business classes, career resources, religious opportunities and family programs. She said the role of university chapters is to fundraise for the centers, which require roughly \$20 per month to treat a family of four.

Kirsten Maakestad, Executive Director for the Truman CFA chapter, said the event is geared toward giving participants a chance to see the realities of living with HIV. Each person will be issued a card with their name, life story and status — HIV positive or negative — that will determine the nature of their "experience" through-

out the event.

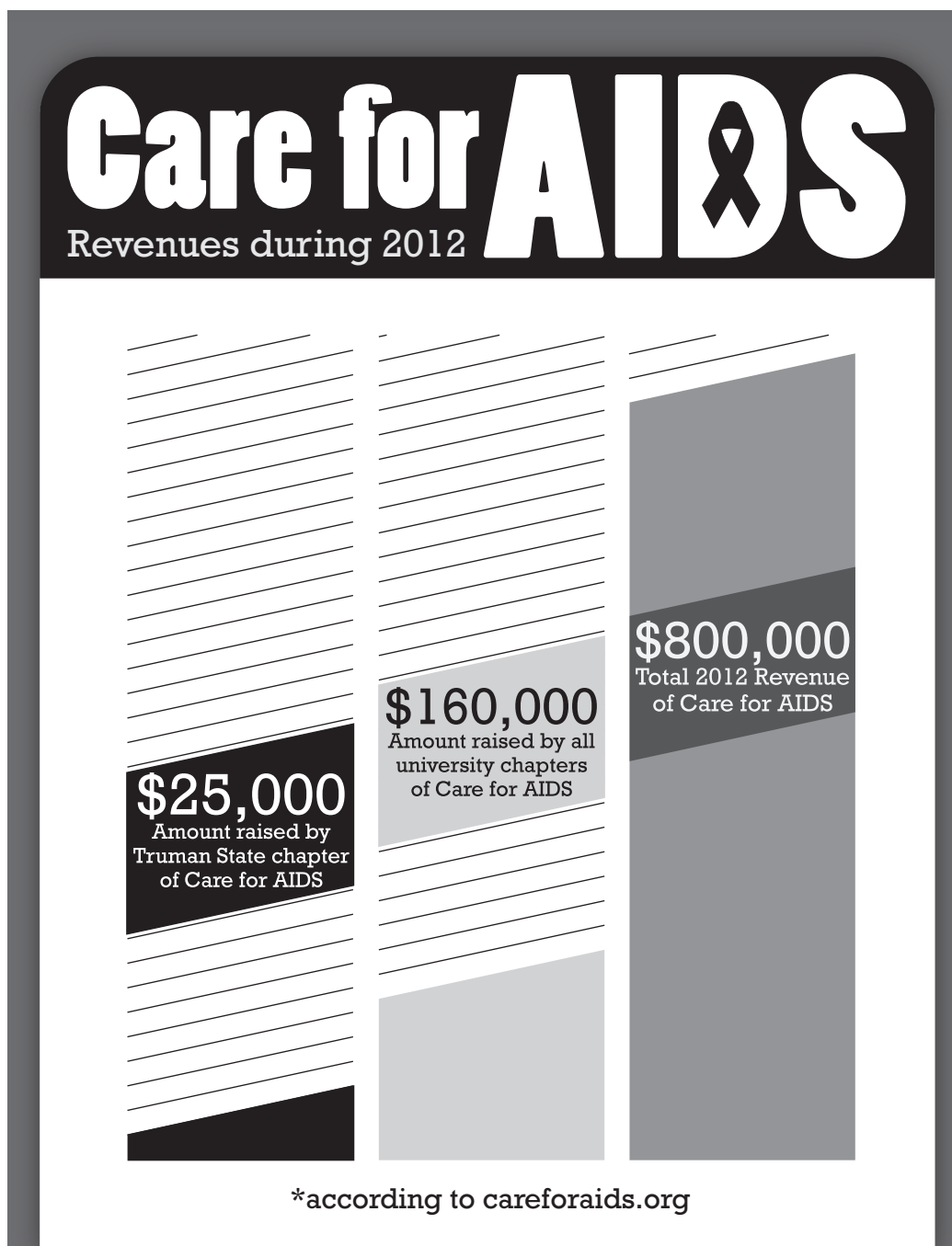
Students then will see firsthand a representation of what patients face during the nine-month programs offered by CARE for AIDS centers, Maakestad said.

All "Experience Event" participants will have an opportunity to respond after the event, to receive more information or become involved directly, Maakestad said. She said it's important those attending understand that coming to the event brings no expectation of commitment to the organization.

Truman's CARE for AIDS chapter hosts several events each year to raise funds and HIV awareness, with the goal of aiding the Kenyan centers and eradicating the negative stigma associated with AIDS.

"We're just trying to help students see how they're in a powerful position, even as college students, to truly make life-changing differences in people's lives in Kenya who have AIDS," Maakestad said.

The Truman chapter raised nearly \$25,000 of support last year, she said. According to the organization's website, the combined total for all CARE for AIDS University chapters was more than \$160,000 during 2012, amounting to roughly 20 percent of that year's total revenue. For more information about the event or the CARE for AIDS organization, contact Kirsten Maakestad at cfa Truman State@gmail.com or visit CAREforAIDS.org.



Piano Festival features guest artist Brian Hsu

BY SUJASH ISLAM PURNA
Staff Reporter

An upcoming performance may strike a chord with listeners. Truman State's 31st annual Piano Festival will feature Brian Hsu as the festival's guest artist. He will perform pieces from famous pianists like Frederic Chopin, Franz Liszt and Claude Debussy at 8 p.m. Feb. 14 in Ophelia Parish Performance Hall.

Hsu will offer a master class as a part of the festival at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 15. The performance will feature four Truman piano majors. Then the final auditions for the Truman Piano Fellowship Awards, a competitive, full-ride piano scholarship to Truman, will take place.

"We're recruiting piano majors," David McKamie, festival coordinator and music

professor, said. "High-school seniors who are interested in pursuing a degree in music with piano as their primary instrument will have the opportunity to show their expertise and win scholarship to study piano here at Truman."

McKamie said he and music professor Lok Ng listened to the entries submitted by the competing students.

The winners of the Fellowship Awards will be announced during the final auditions. Hsu will join the judges for the final auditions. McKamie said he thinks the Fellowship Awards will be helpful to the winners as they pursue piano as their major. According to the Piano Festival campaign, the first place winner will receive a full-ride scholarship to study piano at Truman.

Hsu has performed at Truman before

as a guest artist for the piano festival. This year's competitors will have the opportunity to play in front of him, McKamie said. Moreover, McKamie said he encourages students, regardless of their majors, to come and see Hsu's performance.

"Everybody is invited," McKamie said. "We are really excited to have [Hsu] this year. He will be playing four Chopin ballades. Students from all majors should come and see him perform live. It's a great opportunity, not just for us music majors, but everybody."

McKamie said he thinks Hsu is a highly talented pianist in the contemporary era. He said Hsu went to Juilliard and Yale University, received his Doctoral from Michigan University and now teaches piano at Loyola University.

Junior Taylor Jokerst is a student in the master class and will perform with Hsu.

"I am very excited for this year's piano festival," Jokerst said. "I am glad that this time I will be able to work with him in his master class."

Jokerst said he thinks working with Hsu will be very helpful.

"From past experience, I know that he is a brilliant performer and a gifted teacher," Jokerst said. "I think that his insights will be very helpful to me as a pianist."

Besides playing with Hsu, Jokerst will register the competitors when they arrive on campus.

Jokerst said he is excited to hear the competitors perform in the scholarship competition.

The festival is free to watch, and the final auditions for the Fellowship Awards will begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall.

INDEX

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