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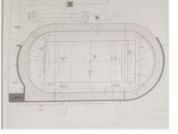
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Photo by Alice Liu/ TMN

Executive Director John Dungan announces how much money United Way raised the night of its fall fundraising Kickoff Celebration. United Way raised \$10,215 on the first day.

United Way offers volunteer opportunities

BY CLAYTON BERRY
Staff Writer

United Way of Adair County/Northeast Missouri, an organization that sponsors 13 service- and community-focused agencies in Northeast Missouri, raised more than \$10,215 on the first day of its annual fall fundraising campaign with its Kickoff Celebration.

John Dungan, United Way executive director, said this year's goal is to make \$205,000, which he said is slightly higher than its usual \$200,000 goal. He said last year the organization raised about \$175,000 of its \$200,000 goal, but he said he is very optimistic it will reach this year's goal based on the high amount of support received leading up to the Kickoff event. He said it raised about \$20,600 in pledges before the start of the fundraiser, and thus has raised more than \$30,000 so far.

Dungan said he appreciated the support of local businesses and organizations for providing the food and other resources for the event, as well as the live performance by the Kirksville band Deadwood. He said he is also looking forward to the role Truman State University will play in this year's fundraiser. He said most of the funds comes from an annual fundraising campaign by the Truman faculty and staff, and another \$8,000-\$12,000 comes from students who donate their unused Sodexo meals during Sodexo's annual Food Fast fundraiser, which he said

usually takes place later in the year. He said he encourages more Truman faculty, staff, students and student organizations to contribute or volunteer at fundraiser events to help reach United Way's goal.

The Kickoff Celebration was first used four years ago to mark the start of United Way's annual fall fundraiser, which lasts from mid-September to the end of the year. The Kickoff was Sept. 9th at the Jackson Stables near Thousand Hills State Park.

"It's always a pleasure to work with the generous people of Kirksville and with Truman students," Dungan said. "We love the enthusiasm, the creativity, and the energy that [Truman] students and staff can bring to our community."

Patricia Selby, Heartland Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) program director, said her agency receives a lot of funding from United Way. Selby said Heartland RSVP is the Adair County branch of the national RSVP, which she said is a non-profit agency that helps people aged 55 and older to find and receive training for various volunteer programs that benefit their local communities. She said Heartland RSVP applied several years ago to be a partner agency and receive grants from United Way, while in turn she said it supports United Way's annual fundraiser with proceeds from their own bake sales, as well as volunteering with door-to-door, neighborhood canvassing for United Way.

"At the time we applied, we had to spend about one-third of our time and effort every year into our own fundraising," Selby said. "This helps us focus less on that and more on the needs of our volunteers and the work that they do."

Selby said RSVP has other matching grants and funding from places such as Americorp, the Missouri Department of Transportation, and the Corporation for Community and National Service. She said she is glad they partnered with United Way so people know they are part of a common purpose.

Senior Elizabeth Roe, Community Engagement Intern of Truman's SERVE Center, said United Way is one of the SERVE Center's 100 or more Community Partners operating in the area. Roe said the SERVE Center acts as a liaison between Truman students and the Kirksville community, by helping students find local volunteer opportunities with partners such as United Way. She said Truman faculty and students can create a profile on truservice.truman.edu and browse volunteer opportunities in their specific areas of interest. She said there are several United Way positions available, including marketing and social media interns, on the TruService site. She said she encourages students to get involved in any kind of volunteer opportunity.

"Our biggest resource to students is their Truman service accounts," Roe said. "And so it's one of our biggest resources to the community."

Art department discussing photo concentration

Though only in the beginning stages, Truman State's art department and School of Arts and Letters are working to bring photography from a minor to a major concentration. Students could see the change come to fruition if the department is able to pull together a proposal sometime soon.

BY EMILY MERKLE
Staff Writer

Truman State University's art department might add photography as an option under the studio art major.

Currently, photography is offered as a minor, but these changes would allow students to get a studio art major concentration.

Art department Chair Aaron Fine said the idea is still in the brainstorming stage and little actual progress has been made at this time. Fine said the idea to make photography available as a concentration has been around for a while. He said the photography minor has drawn interest and been successful. Fine said photography professor Priya Kambli is on sabbatical for the 2016-17 academic year and will spend some of that time working on the proposed major concentration change.

Fine said photography will not be a new major, but an additional specialization within the studio art major. Fine said currently, studio art concentrations include ceramics, fibers, painting, printmaking, sculpture, three-dimensional studio and design.

Fine said after Kambli works on a proposal, studio art faculty will then work together on the proposition. He said the proposal will then go through the entire art faculty before moving to the Undergraduate Council and Faculty Senate for approval. Fine said the earliest the specialization might be available is fall 2018.

"[Photography]'s a really exciting area in contemporary art we hope to be able to offer," Fine said.

James O'Donnell, dean of the School of Arts and Letters, said he thinks the major, if added, could provide students with great opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills in photography.

"[The new concentration] would be an excellent opportunity should it come to pass," O'Donnell said.

O'Donnell said one potential challenge to adding the concentration would be offering an increased number of photography classes with the existing faculty.

GREEK ORGANIZATIONS AT TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY RECEIVE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

BOTH REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY

According to a press release from Truman Greek Life

Alpha Sigma Alpha

Recognized at its national convention for the improvement of its overall chapter grade point average.

Beta Theta Pi

Received many awards at its General Convention, including the Virginia Tech Award for obtaining first in grades for the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters, and its 11th Francis H. Sisson Award, Beta Theta Pi's highest honor for chapter excellence.

Sigma Sigma Sigma

Received recognition at its national convention for their chapter's Centennial.

Sigma Phi Epsilon

Received the 2016 Excelsior Cup in Risk Management at its National Carlson Leadership conference.

Kappa Alpha Psi

Junior Tyler Murphy was elected to be the Middle Western Province Junior Vice Polemarch (President) at its national convention, which is the highest-ranking position in the Midwest and recognized nationally within the fraternity.

Delta Chi

Received many awards at its national convention in July, which include excellence in manpower, member education, involvement, housing, financial management, and alumni relations.

Sigma Kappa

Received Sigma Kappa's most prestigious award, the Two Star Standards of Excellence-Second Level of Excellence, presented to chapters that meet all of the Sigma Kappa minimum standards, such as high performance in areas of membership, campus involvement and philanthropy.