

# INDEX WINS BEST IN DIVISION II

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

# INDEX

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Photos by Trevor Stark/Index

Spike, Truman State's mascot, stands by the path on The Quad reminding students to vote this week. Student Government elections started Tuesday and will take place through today. Students can cast their vote electronically by visiting [vote.truman.edu](http://vote.truman.edu) or in person today in the SUB Alumni Room until 6 p.m.

## Stu Gov candidates explain platforms and ideas

Student Government candidates are running campaigns that promise to fairly and accurately represent the student body, and advocate for diversity and unity at Truman State. Sophomore Clayton Berry, junior Molly Turner and junior Parker Conover are the presidential nominees — freshman Clarissa Todd, junior J.J. Dorrell and junior Zach Hollstrom are the vice presidential nominees. Student Government election polls opened April 14 and will close today. The ballot includes presidential and vice presidential candidates, senatorial candidates and ballot issues.



CLAYTON BERRY & CLARISSA TODD

Berry, an economics major, is the current Academic Affairs chair in Student Government. He has been a member of Student Senate since his freshman year, and he said his experience in the Senate has prepared him to be president by giving him an informed perspective on many issues. See BERRY & TODD, page 3



MOLLY TURNER & J.J. DORRELL

Turner is a philosophy and religion major who has been involved with the Senate since her freshman year. She has served as the Environmental Affairs chair and this past academic year served as Student Government vice president alongside senior Drew Paulman. See TURNER & DORRELL, page 3



PARKER CONOVER & ZACH HOLLSTROM

Conover, a political science and creative writing double major, has been involved with Senate for the past year. He said he has learned much about Student Senate from his experiences as a chair of the Grants and Sponsorships committee and as a member of the ad hoc Rules committee. See CONOVER & HOLLSTROM, page 3

From the *desk*  
of the *Editor*

## Editor discusses lessons learned from MCMA

BY ROBERT OVERMANN  
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I've spent almost four years at the Truman State University Index, and I still have trouble putting into words exactly what makes student media at this University so gratifying and edifying.

What are we doing that is so different from other student organizations? What draws students from so many different fields and backgrounds, and why do so many of our staff choose to spend so many hours away from friends and other pleasures to work in journalism? Some of our editors spend upwards of 20 hours per week — earning far, far less than minimum wage — producing a product many of our generation think is an antiquated medium.

Although I have attended the Missouri College Media Association Conference before in other capacities, I had not attended as an Editor-In-Chief. The experience was a little different than before, though initially I didn't realize it. Armed with knowledge about how the Index operates in its entirety, I caught glimpses of what makes the Index different from newspapers at other schools — and, I think, why many of our staff make the sacrifices they do.

I traveled to the conference with seven of my coworkers — my students at times and my teachers at others — and we saw how other college newspapers operate, the products they create and the people representing them. Often the differences we noticed were slight — we are all college students interested in the various facets of media — but I speculate they often have big impacts on the newspapers at these different schools.

We noticed other student newspapers don't enjoy the same benefits and advantages we do — some have advisers who insist on being a part of the production process, and some face obstinate administrators, uncooperative faculty and capricious coaches that make reporting difficult or impossible in certain situations. Probably above all, I suspect other college newspapers don't have quite the talented, diverse pool of artists and writers to draw from that we do.

Knowing how lucky we are, I have an incredible respect for Missouri's two-year college newspapers. They certainly face challenges we don't — a large percentage of non-traditional students with families and full-time jobs, difficulties institutionalizing knowledge and practices because students only can be involved for a maximum of two years, likely less funding and likely a readership with less connection to their campus. These school newspapers do great work considering their setbacks and we sincerely hope some of them gravitate toward Truman State and the Index. See MCMA, page 6

## Index staffers awarded at MCMA

BY ROBERT OVERMANN  
Editor-In-Chief  
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The Truman State University Index was named Best In Division II by the Missouri College Media Association at its 2015 conference, beating

out all other Missouri college newspapers at medium-sized four-year colleges and universities. Many of the Index's individual members also received statewide awards for their achievements.

The Index was honored for its writing, photog-

raphy, design and more during the April 11 conference at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri. The newspaper submitted students' work published during the 2014 calendar year, and competed for awards

against college newspapers at Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri Western State University, Missouri Southern State University, Drury University, Webster University and Maryville University. See RELEASE, page 6

## KPD plans for possible new firing range

BY BETHANY BOYLE  
News Editor  
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The Kirksville Police Department is exploring tentative plans for a new firing range that would allow the department to have a space dedicated to firearms training.

The plans for the new range still are in the developmental stages. The department is working to write several grant proposals and secure a potential location at the Kirksville Sanitary Landfill. The KPD currently uses a private range owned by a third party as well as a public range located on Missouri Department of Conservation land.

Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes said the department does not mind sharing space with the public or using the private range, but he thinks the department would benefit from having a range to itself. Hughes said the new range could be designed to suit the specific training needs of the police department.

"The [public] range is not designed the way we would like to see it designed for police use,"

Hughes said. "They like the range to be more versatile than a public range."

Hughes said the current locations pose no significant problems, but the department must be careful to observe noise levels because of neighboring homes. Space at the public range is not guaranteed nor private since it is open for public use, he said.

**"The [public] range is not designed the way we would like to see it designed for police use. They like the range to be more versatile than a public range."**

— KPD Police Chief Jim Hughes

The time frame for approval and starting construction is not set, and Hughes said the soonest KPD might expect to get financial backing secured would be the 2015-16 grant period. He said the

department is looking to submit grant proposals to one government agency as well as several non-government entities and potential partners.

He said while the range would be designed to accommodate police firearms training, it also would be equipped to handle other types of groups, and ideally would be available to community members and groups upon request. Right now, KPD is working to find out who might be interested in using the proposed range, and which of those groups might want to partner with the department to help make these plans a reality.

Hughes said he wants the public to know the majority of funding for the proposed range site is not intended to come from taxpayers' dollars or the City of Kirksville. If the proposal is to be completed as planned, the largest portion of funding will be provided by grant funding and financial partners within the community and elsewhere.

The proposed site is located northwest of town at the Kirksville Sanitary Landfill, Hughes said. This site still is tentative, but the department has commissioned a scaled drawing of the potential See RANGE, page 6

# Paino tells BOG state funding could increase

BY TAYLOR LAY  
Staff Reporter

Truman State’s Board of Governors discussed current conditions, future renovation projects and a potential increase of state funding for the University last Saturday at the Board’s meeting. The meeting included discussion about future renovation projects for the University. The Board approved a project-level budget for the Guaranteed Energy Savings Program to help modernize and increase the efficiency of utilities on campus. Voting Board member Susan Plassmeyer said tuition and fees will increase by 0.8 percent for in-state undergraduate students and by 1.6 percent for all out-of-state undergraduate, in-state graduate and out-of-state graduate students for the 2015-16 academic year. Faculty Senate reported it sent out a faculty referendum for the plus/minus grading system proposal, which failed to pass. Vote totals were 46 percent in favor — 54 percent opposed, with a 70 percent participation rate.

Board members individually expressed brief personal statements in remembrance of the recently deceased University president emeritus Charles McClain. The Board also discussed University enrollment, recruitment efforts, tuition adjustments and foundation advancements. University President Troy Paino said the Missouri Senate asked to increase appropriations for higher education by 1.8 percent in Missouri’s annual budget for the coming fiscal year. Paino said the Missouri House of Representatives approved the established 1.2 percent appropriation but has yet to approve the Senate’s proposal. Paino said he thinks the General Assembly wants to have the budget finalized and sent to Gov. Jay Nixon for approval by the end of next week. Paino said enrollment for the coming year is nearly equal to the 2014-15 academic year. He said admissions should have a more accurate enrollment number after May 1, though this will be before accounting for international students. He also said there could be changes to the University recruitment cycle next year.

He said the University needs to be more aggressive in recruitment and cast a wider net to attract students. “We cannot rely on affordability to get students to Truman, we must turn to other factors,” Paino said. “Scholarships and criteria we currently offer were set 25 years ago. We have to ask ‘What do we want to be?’... ‘What do we want to look like as a University in the future?’” —University President Troy Paino

Paino said he thinks the University administration focuses too much on enrollment numbers and doesn’t think enough about the future of the University, including variation in diversity of the student body. He said he hopes further conversations about improving and moving the University forward will take place during summer 2015. Mark Gambaiana, Vice President for University Advancement, said the foundation has raised \$5.7 million in cash pledges this fiscal year and has secured \$20.2 million in commitments through the current campaign. He said the foundation currently is at month 22 of the 60-month campaign. Gambaiana said of the \$20.2 million, \$14 million has been raised for scholarships. He said the total assets and endowments of the foundation are at \$45 million and \$40 million, respectively. Gambaiana said these assets steadily have been increasing during the past few years. “It has been very exciting to report to the Board and basically each meeting, for the past several, we’ve had new records in those areas,” Gambaiana said.



Index staff and advisor Don Krause, far left, pose with the certificate for “Best Overall Division II Newspaper” at the MCMA Conference last weekend at Northwest Missouri State University. The conference brought together students from across the state to celebrate and appraise their work in student media.

## RELEASE | Index Staff receives recognition

Continued from page 1  
The Index’s current and former staff received individual Division II awards for their work.

- Senior Megan Archer – First place, Nonpolitical/Entertainment Cartoon
- Senior Megan Archer – First place, Political/Editorial Cartoon
- Juniors Anna Grace and Grace Bueckendorf – First place, Feature Page
- Index Editorial Staff – Second place, Special Section
- Junior Dan Mika – Second place, In-Depth News Reporting
- Junior Anna Grace – Second place, Sports Column
- Junior Katey Stoetzel – Second place, Entertainment Review
- Sophomore Austin Hornbostel – Second place, News Writing
- Sophomore Elle Fitzgibbons – Second place, Feature Photography
- Freshman Trevor Stark – Second place, Sports Photography
- Senior John Brooks, Sophomore Austin Hornbostel and Junior Dan Mika – Third place, Page One Design
- Senior Megan Archer – Third place, Op-Ed Page
- Index Editorial Board – Third place, Editorial Writing
- Juniors Jonathan Rembold and Hannah Kacerovskis – Honorable mention, Sports Page
- Juniors Jonathan Rembold and Hannah Kacerovskis – Honorable mention, Photo Page
- Junior Erica Nolan – Honorable mention, Feature Writing
- Senior Bill Townsend – Honorable mention, Column

MCMA judges said the Index had a “solid, clean layout,” and complimented the newspaper for featuring both an editorial and an opinions page. Judges also said they appreciated the Index’s use of information graphics, TruLife’s use of photography and graphics on the section front, the page two calendar/crime/news briefs section, and overall presentation and production. Index representatives attend the conference annually and will travel next April to Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where the newspaper will receive recognition for its work this calendar year.

## MCMA | Editor-In-Chief reflects on the past year of college media success

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The Index has done quite well at recent MCMA conferences and I think that is no accident. We have a staff that strives to be the best at what they do and seeks out the best practices to implement for their areas of the newspaper. For all of our fortunes, it is true we don’t have the financial resources or state-of-the-art equipment many of the association’s Division I college newspapers probably have — what we do have is state-of-the-art minds. It’s those people behind our publication that allow us even to compete with Division I newspapers from more prestigious, moneyed universities. One staff member interestingly pointed out to me during our drive home Saturday evening the fear of failure she feels stepping into an editorial role. And, thinking back, I felt that fear each time I began a new editorial role. I don’t think that’s something common to all college media staff — at the Index, our staff has a certain understanding of the excellence of those who have come before them. Each of us feels a need to live up to — and exceed — the successes of our predecessors. At least to me, there is a certain hallowed duty associated with each role at the newspaper and a desire to prove oneself as a capable leader, writer and teacher. Combined with the support network we provide for each other, I think the fear of failure — and yearning to succeed — our staff feels is a very powerful driver of our publication. I don’t know if I’m any closer to understanding concretely how our college newspaper provides for its staff a sense of belonging, and desire to reach higher and do better. Perhaps I am as close as I ever will be to wrapping my mind around its particular powers of instruction and reward. Perhaps what this year’s MCMA conference really taught me is what our newspaper offers is different to all of our staff — some seek a venue to express themselves, some seek a venue to lead, some seek work experience, and some seek to spread knowledge about our campus and community. MCMA is one of my favorite events for the Index each year, and I think it’s because it allows each of us to realize we are merely cogs in a magnificent news machine — each of us plays an essential, but often inglorious and unrecognized role in the awards the newspaper receives. But to know us as a staff is to see many talented, dedicated — and sometimes even fearful — minds working with unusual grace and harmony.

## Proposed benefits of KPD building new firing range



- Potential to be opened for use by community groups
- More versatile design specific to KPD needs
- Increased distance from residential areas
- Flexible scheduling
- Safety for KPD staff

Source: Kirksville Police Department

## RANGE | Kirksville Police Department is making tentative plans for a new firing range to alleviate noise concerns and potential schedule conflicts with current public and private range options

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location and the dimensions of the range. Hughes said the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has jurisdiction of the landfill, and the plans need DNR approval to move forward. Lt. Mark Wellman, KPD Masters Firearms instructor, said the proposed location has several advantages compared to the current firing range sites on public and private land, including its distance from the closest residential area.

While the current range on private land has several neighbors, he said the proposed location is farther from neighbors who might be disturbed by the noise. Wellman said a dedicated location also would be safer for KPD staff because of the safety precautions used during training sessions, which are not necessarily observed by the public. The department has several specific training elements that currently must be carried out at the public state

range, but could better be completed at a range designed specifically for police use, Wellman said. For example, instruction for long-range shooters requires a different range configuration than other types of firearms training. Wellman said one of the most important aspects of firearms training is repetition. He said the incidences of firearms use on duty are small compared to time spent practicing, so officers can develop muscle memory or “learned re-

sponses” during practice to high-stress, potentially dangerous situations. Finally, Wellman said a new range would benefit the police department by allowing them to know when the range is available. He said the department conducts certification training about four times per year, and having the ability to schedule the sessions without worry about potential conflicts at the current range would be beneficial for the department.