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One Mizzou Week facilitates diversity education

By Cassa Niedringhaus

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The first annual One Mizzou Week began Sunday.

This week is a student-led initiative to educate students and other members of the MU community about the importance of diversity, Missouri Students Association President Xavier Billingsley said.

Billingsley said he and MSA Vice President Helena Kooi proposed One Mizzou Week during their 2011 MSA campaign. They want students to understand this week is about more than athletics or fundraising — it instead emphasizes the importance of diversity on campus.

"We came up with this week," Billingsley said. "We have been working with the One Mizzou Student Task Force, which is made up of myself, the LBC (Legion of Black Collegians) president, the RHA (Residence Halls Association) president, the GPC (Graduate Professional Council) president and the Four Front chair. Essentially, we really want to make this week something that is annual and something that educates the students about the real meaning of diversity."

Two racially charged incidents spurred the creation of One Mizzou Week, according to the One Mizzou website.

"Students, staff, faculty and administrators came together in February of 2011 and determined that there is a need for a proactive and positive diversity initiative on our campus," the website stated.

Among the two most well-known events of the week were author and poet Maya Angelou's talk Monday and the Fun. concert Friday.

The purpose of a popular band such as Fun. headlining the concert is to raise awareness of the week in general, MSA Director of Student Communications Zach Toombs said.

"I think it boosts the profile of the week as a whole," Toombs said. "I think that it's very important. Fun. reaches some people that otherwise might not be interested in the week as a whole."

Kooi also said it's important to get students involved who might otherwise not think about the importance of diversity.

"Ideally, One Mizzou Week will engage students who might not be thinking about diversity issues on a regular basis," Kooi said in an email. "The more we can encourage people to think about diversity, the more willing they will be to consider views different than their own. One Mizzou Week is meant to help our community think and act more inclusively."

It is also important to highlight One Mizzou Week events that don't have celebrities, Billingsley said. Students can expect a core education about diversity at these events, and new events each day this week will address different diversity topics. Because this is an event run by elected student leaders, it is important for the Student Task Force to get feedback from students for future events, Billingsley also said.

Though this is the first year of One Mizzou Week, it is important the week becomes an annual event, Kooi said.

"Having an annual week means that the ideas of respect and communication that drive the One Mizzou movement will continue to impact future students," Kooi said in an email.

Billingsley said he and Kooi hope the week will become an annual event. They also have other long-term diversity goals.

"We hope that this will open a door to many more diversity conversations here on campus," Billingsley said. "We hope students will get involved with the push with Faculty Council to incorporate a diversity course requirement here at the university. One day, we also hope as a One Mizzou Task Force that diversity is a fifth core value of the university."

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Tiger Pantry names Paul Haluszczak as new director

By Jill Deutsch

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CORRECTED 11/13/2012 AT 9:49 A.M. In the print edition of The Maneater, this story incorrectly refers to Mackenzie Thiessen as "chairwoman." This has been corrected to "chairman" online. The Maneater regrets this error.

With Nick Droege elected as the next Missouri Students Association president, Tiger Pantry needed a new director. Droege chose Paul Haluszczak, Tiger Pantry's current assessment coordinator, as his successor.

There was no application process for Haluszczak's appointment.

"Tiger Pantry is at a stage where it can't really take anyone outside of the pantry as a director, so there was no need to send out a public application for it," Droege said.

There will be an application process for future directors, Droege said.

Droege said he selected Haluszczak as this year's director because of his passion for the project.

"Paul spent hours and hours of time in the pantry," Droege said. "He was the clear choice."

Haluszczak, who was a part of the pantry from its beginning, said he initially didn't realize the extent of the need for the pantry.

"When I found out about all the statistics from (the) university of the need for (a pantry), I was shocked by a lot of it," Haluszczak said.

He cited statistics listed on the Tiger Pantry website, such as the 1,000 students who receive \$1,000 or less in financial assistance from family and the 20 students who reported homelessness in 2012.

"Knowing there are students going to our school who are homeless and can't provide for themselves and there are people deciding between buying their food ... and paying bills – we just don't think that should be a concern for people trying to get an education," Haluszczak said.

Droege complimented Haluszczak's enthusiasm for the project.

"Paul (Haluszczak) has a tremendous work ethic and a huge heart, especially when it comes to serving others," Droege said.

Droege and other coordinators said they noticed Haluszczak's passion. Droege said many of the other coordinators recommended Haluszczak to become director when Droege asked who was interested.

"The level of commitment and passion he puts into his past duties are obvious just from looking at his actions alone," Tiger Pantry Operations co-chairman Mackenzie Thiessen said. "He is very well integrated into the people and responsibilities that will be necessary for the director of the pantry, and I have no doubt he will continue to help Tiger Pantry grow and succeed."

The support from the other coordinators was unexpected, Haluszczak said.

"I didn't realize I was going to be the next in line, so to speak," he said.

Haluszczak accepted the offer to become director Friday and officially will begin his new role Dec. 1. Droege will be training him during the next few months.

Haluszczak said he does not plan to make any drastic changes to the pantry.

"Nothing is set at the moment, since we just opened the pantry," Haluszczak said. "Tiger Pantry looks to better itself and further improve its operations and achieve even bigger goals than before. Changes in the pantry are always happening and it starts with myself and the wonderful coordinators I work with to make it all happen."

Instead, he said he wants to focus on making changes that keep the pantry running smoothly.

"Our largest challenge currently is expanding the kinds of products we provide to clients of the pantry," Thiessen said.

Haluszczak said he is looking forward to the pantry's future, especially with the possibility of supplying fresh produce.

"I'm really excited to see where the pantry goes to the end of the year and the changes we have coming up at the semester," Haluszczak said.

MISSOURIAN

Holocaust survivor Irving Roth tells MU audience about experiences

COLUMBIA — Irving Roth was given a password he could use for the rest of his life in Auschwitz.

Surviving the Holocaust left a permanent mark on Roth's life. While some would want to remove the identification number tattoo, Roth found a practical use for his Auschwitz number as a computer password.

"Like the wrinkles on my face, my number is part of my experience," Roth said.

In an event hosted by MU's chapter of the Christians United For Israel on Wednesday at Middlebush Hall, Roth spoke about his experiences as a Holocaust survivor and how Israel is facing similar turmoil now.

The Christians United For Israel is a national organization dedicated to raising awareness about the violence and oppression in Israel.

"Our purpose is to get out pro-Israel conversation," said the president of MU's Christians United For Israel chapter, Destiny Albritton. "We're getting the word out that Israel is not the bad guy that it's painted to be."

Albritton wanted to have Roth share his story at the organization's event and talk about how his experience opens the door to understanding similar experiences by those living in Israel. Albritton explained that religious intolerance in Middle Eastern countries is a reality, unlike developed Western cultures.

Roth uses his experience as a way to get others involved with ending intolerance.

"Every life is precious," he said.

Roth is now the director of the Holocaust Resource Center at the Temple Judea of Manhasset, New York. He received the Anne Frank Award in 2004 for working to make the world a more accepting and diverse place.

Jeremiah Nasiatka, the Christians United For Israel campus coordinator, said he believes Roth's story and work embodies the organization's goals.

"He's not just a survivor. He's risen above what's happened to him and is willing to relive it day after day," Nasiatka said. "In my mind, it's what makes him a hero of the Holocaust."



Moberly college president takes Arkansas post

By Janese Silvey

NO MU Mention

The longtime leader of Moberly Area Community College is leaving her post to take the helm of Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville.

Evelyn Jorgenson has been at MACC for 26 years, 16 of those as president. On her watch, the college has constructed several new buildings, including the Graphic Arts/Fine Arts Center, the McCormick Commons and the Residential Center. Recently, the college celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony for a new facility in Hannibal.

Jorgenson also started the study-abroad and online degree programs.

“Because of all the wonderful memories and all the wonderful people at MACC, from board members to faculty and staff, I find it very difficult to move on to another college, but at the same time, I take great comfort in knowing that the college is in good, strong hands,” Jorgenson said in a statement. “I could never leave if I didn’t know that to be true. There is a time for change and a time for new opportunities and” husband “Chuck and I believe this is a good time for us to have one more grand adventure before we run out of steam.”

Jorgenson will stay through the end of the academic year before starting her new role July 1. The Board of Trustees will begin discussing the search for a new president in the coming weeks.