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Greek Week Highlights Service and Competition

KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR

Greek Week features athletic competition which harkens back to the Greek Olympics first held in 776 B.C. The ancient Greeks hosted their friendly competition to recognize feats of strength and skill among competitors from neighboring cities. University of Missouri—St. Louis’ Greek Week sports events were co-ed and placed fraternity, sorority, or unaffiliated teams against each other. Sorority competitors were from Zeta Tau Alpha, Delta Zeta, and Alpha Xi Delta. Fraternity competitors were from Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Pi, and Sigma Tau Gamma. There were trophies awarded to the winners of the male and female divisions of games and a cup trophy was given to the overall chapter winner for the sorority or fraternity.

The sporting events played at the Greek Week 2015 games were soccer, softball, kickball, flag football, basketball, volleyball, and hockey. Some of the events were co-ed and placed fraternity versus sorority. The single gender sports were allotted five points for first place, three points for second place, and one point for third. Co-ed sports were given three points for first place, two for second, and one for third. These points were added to the community service points to calculate the overall winner.

All the games were held at the University of Missouri’s very own coliseum: The Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center and practice field. The sporting events usually followed intramural rules, although some rules were altered due to time restrictions.

Soccer was the first sport competition during Greek Week. It was held on the practice field outside of Mark Twain. This event was a single gender sport. The winners for soccer were Pi Kappa Alpha for the fraternities and Delta Zeta for the sororities.

Kickball was a co-ed sport held on the practice field at 5 p.m. on Monday. The teams were Sigma Tau Gamma and Zeta Tau Alpha, Pi Kappa Alpha and Delta Zeta, and Sigma Pi and Alpha Xi Delta. The winners for the kickball game were Zeta Tau Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma.

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The sharp decline of amphibians has been a global phenomenon. “Karen Lips is actually one of the world leaders in our understanding of the decline of amphibians due to the chytrid fungus,” said Patricia Parker, Professor of Biology. “She’s interested in conservation, I’m an ecologist, and I really want to work on conservation later on so I am interested in everything people are doing to help our resources and species,” Hernandez said. “Amphibians are important in the ecosystem, as all species, but they are very vulnerable because they need a lot of moisture to survive and are therefore very vulnerable to fungi.” It is important that we save our species of all kinds.

Before the talk, Chancellor Thomas George spoke about the World Ecology Center, noting its partnership between a university and public institutions, the zoo and the Botanical Garden, is unique in the world. Patricia Parker, Professor of Biology and Director of the Harris World Ecology Center, introduced the speaker.

Before the multimedia lecture began, a slide of a Costa Rican golden frog was displayed on the screen, a very pretty little frog that recently went extinct, largely due to chytrid fungus. As Lips pointed out, chytrid is a fungus that has been infecting amphibians around the world and has been responsible for the decline and extinction of amphibians around the world. Amphibians breathe and take in moisture through their skins, so their skins serve as their lungs. The chytrid fungus infects and grows on the amphibians’ skin, eventually disrupting the animals’ ability to breathe, she told the audience.

The speaker divided her lecture into two parts, the first focusing on amphibians generally and the various strains of chytrid fungus that have been killing them around the world. The second half of the discussion focused on salamanders, a type of amphibian that includes the hellbender, a giant salamander unique to Missouri and the Ozarks, one of only a handful of giant salamanders in the world. The hellbender, which has been in decline, is the subject of research at the St. Louis Zoo and UMSL.

Lips discussed the relative deadlines of strains of chytrid and expressed special concern about a new one which particularly affects salamanders. The strain originated in Asia but has spread to Europe through the pet trade in news, a kind of salamander. The strain, known as B sal, has not yet reached the U.S. and she emphasized the need for testing and limits on importing pet news from both Europe and Asia to prevent its spread here.

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The University of Missouri—St. Louis Greek community hosted their annual Greek Week tradition from April 19 through 25, with several additional events. According to the 2015 Greek Week preview, “The mission of Greek Week is to carry on a tradition of healthy competition, Greek unity and community service while fostering relationships among UMSL fraternities and sororities. Greek Week ends in a celebration of values and a renewed respect for chapter members through their involvement in sports, philanthropy, and service events.”

The Greek Week Steering Committee decides each year what events the chapters will compete in against each other. The committee is comprised of two representatives from each of the six Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council chapters on the UMSL campus. Those chapters are Alpha Xi Delta, Zeta Tau Alpha, Delta Zeta, Sigma Tau Gamma, Pi Kappa Alpha, and Sigma Pi. The chair of the committee rotate to keep the process fair. The chairs for the 2015 Greek week are Sigma Tau Gamma and Delta Zeta. The chairs are responsible for assuring that all events are scheduled, venues are booked, and events run smoothly. This year, all events for Greek Week were held on the UMSL campus.

“We wanted to get more UMSL students involved by having it on campus. We wanted more students to watch the events,” Kevin Mangrum, junior, business administration, and Sigma Tau Gamma chair member said.

Another addition was that this year, the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Greek Life members were able to compete in some of the Greek Week events. NPHC members could compete in the Window Painting event on April 19 at 8 p.m. on the bridge, the Family Feud event held on April 22 at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House, the Iron Chef competition held on April 22 at 12 p.m. in the Pilot House, and the community service project held on April 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in partnership with UMSL Students of Service. The members of the NPHC, however, could not win Greek Week since they were not able to participate in the sports part of the Greek Week competition.

Eligible chapters competed in volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, kickball, flag football, and hockey. All the events were held at the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center and practice fields at various times during the week. The three sororities competed against each other in each sport and so did the fraternities. Some events went over the allotted time and had to be rescheduled.

The shift from mostly athletic competition to a mix of sporting and service-oriented challenges is notably different from previous Greek Week events.

“We want to include more and more service opportunities each year,” Mangrum said.

One of the philanthropic events was a Food and Shoe Drive. Chapters were paired on a team as they competed against other Greek chapters. The competition was similar to a penny war, with canned goods and non-perishables being worth 1 point and pairs of shoes being 1 negative point. The winning group was the one with the most points. All food items collected were donated to St. Stephen’s Church in Ferguson and shoes were donated to the Waterman Project. Greek Life participated in this event Tues-day through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Millennium Student Center bridge.

In the tradition of Greek origins, the opening ceremony held on April 19 featured a Greek God and Goddess competition. Each chapter nominated two competitors to showcase their talents. The winners were crowned Zeus or Athena, for fraternity competitors and sorority competitors respectively. This and other events throughout the week created meeting grounds for UMSL Greek Life to congregate.

“So far [as of April 21] we’ve had anywhere from 75-100 members engage in each Greek Week event,” Collleen Pace, student services coordinator in the Office of Student Life, said.

Points were given to each event and the group with the most points won Greek Week. Some sports were co-ed and placed fraternities with sororities. The single gender sports were allotted five points for first place, three points for second place, and one point for third.

Co-ed sports were given three points for first place, two for second, and one for third. The community service event awards were based on the percentage of active members of the chapter who attended. First place was given five points, second received three, and third received one.

The Closing Ceremony Awards were given out at the Closing Ceremony Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in the Pilot House. Trophies were given to winners of the different events, one for men and one for women. A final big trophy was awarded to the overall sorority and fraternity with the most points. The soccer winners were Pi Kappa Alpha and Delta Zeta, the window painting winners were Delta Zeta and Sigma Pi, the volleyball winner was Sigma Tau Gamma, the basketball winner was Zeta Tau Alpha, the hockey winners were Alpha Xi Delta and Sigma Tau Gamma, the Iron Chef competition winners were Zeta Tau Alpha and Pi Kappa Alpha, the Family Feud winners were Alpha Xi Delta and Sigma Tau Gamma, winners of softball, Sigma Tau Gamma and Delta Zeta, the kickball winners were Zeta Tau Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma, the flag football winners were Zeta Tau Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma, and the Greek Goddess winner was Zeta Tau Alpha and the Greek God winner was Sigma Tau Gamma. The overall Greek Week winners for 2015 were Zeta Tau Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma.

For more information on Greek Life at UMSL check out www.umsl.edu/studentlife/osl/Greek%20Life.

**UML World Ecology Center on Amphibians**

**CATE MARQUIS**
A&E EDITOR

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In the portion of her talk on salamanders, she noted that salamanders are most often found in the southeastern U.S., a distribution area that includes Missouri. This area has the greatest abundance of salamanders not just for North America but in the world. Missouri falls in the middle of this distribution, while South Carolina is ranked first.

In her research on salamanders, Lips made some startling discoveries. One was that the chytrid fungus had long been

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in the area, found in museum specimens from the nineteenth century, that there had been at least two big die-offs of salamanders in the past century, and that while salamanders are in decline, it does not seem to be linked to chytrid. The fungus is present in the area but almost no salamanders in the Appalachian (the area surveyed) were infected with chytrid. The other suspected culprit in their decline, climate change, seemed to have only a small effect. One of several questions raised that need to be addressed in future research was whether the salamanders be resistant to chytrid.

"Dr. Lips' work shows how difficult it is to determine what the impacts, what the factors are the influence, the decline in native animal populations...it is a very complex situation; all of ecology is complex and when you see a decline, you just don't know why it is. You think you would like to attribute it to one factor but it seems like there are at least two going on here. One is disease and the other is climate change, and they are interacting with what is happening."

Robert Marquis, Professor of Biology and Director of the Harris World Ecology Center, said.

**Greek Week Goes the Distance**

**KAT RIDDLER**
NEWS EDITOR

Zeta Tau Alpha members holding their first place trophies for sororities

Sigma Tau Gamma members holding their first place trophies for fraternities

Display of trophies and awards that were given to the Greeks
Graduate Research Fair Exhibits Student Presentations

ALBERT NOLL
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri—St. Louis hosted its annual Graduate Research Fair on April 20. The graduates, as well as a few select undergraduates, were able to showcase the fruits of labor from their respective fields to network with fellow scholars both inside and outside of their own disciplines. The departments represented were chemistry/biochemistry, nanoscience, physics, astronomy, and psychology. There was also a special representative project from the Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis focusing on infections in surgical patients. This particular project was an exploration of the skin injuries in burn patients with a high mortality risk due to bacterial invasion.

The categorical entry option topics were varied and numerous. The competition was divided into the two wide categories of social sciences/humanities/biology/education and mathematics/natural sciences. The projects within both categories ranged from the examination of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to population studies, to obsessive-compulsive disorder.

The many data analysis charts and statistical tables appeared quite complex for the average person. However, exhibitors at the event were more than happy to explain their presentations in significant detail to anyone who would listen. Lauren Salminen, doctoral, behavioral neuroscience, gave an overview of the brain aging process. “My exhibit explores the process of brain aging in terms of diffusion imaging and water movement of gray and white matter. My focus is on the deterioration process of the brain over a period of time by changes in water movement and protein regulation in healthy individuals. This will have an impact on future research in cognition performance, as well as Alzheimer’s Disease and its effects on the regulatory process,” Salminen said.

The exhibit by Chey’onna Sewell, graduate, criminology, takes on the spectrum of violence against women and the degree to which trends and systems of racial stratification have an effect on this. “I believe this is important because it has implications about how we explain violence, and how we need to reduce and eliminate it. We realize that there is an important part of analytical literature that pertains to racial inequality and its relationships with violence, along with gender inequities. It is important when you research that you fully realize what you are buying into when it comes to the theories. What I want to do is fully investigate this issue, and to double check what the theorists are doing in their explorations of difference and similarities to what factors in violence against women,” Sewell said.

In the College of Education, the Doctoral community felt like this [documentary film screening] represents that we have a deep commitment to equality and social justice,” Hutchinson said, on the choice to show the film. “We also do a lot of community engagement work, and so having connected with Shawn through the events in Ferguson last year, she and I had kept in contact. With her expertise, and the fact that she was the director of the film, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to help continue to move that conversation forward.”

The film featured eight ordinary people discussing their personal experiences with discrimination and oppression, how those experiences shaped their own views, and the power that comes from speaking out in the face of discrimination, bullying, or abuse. Two aspects made this film different from others on the topic: the subjects only spoke about their direct experiences, not about things they read in the news, and the subjects were a diverse group. By including people in disadvantaged groups and historically privileged groups, the film brought a wide range of perspectives on discrimination and on white, male, straight privilege.

The writer/director, Dr. Shawn Patrick, associate professor of counseling at Texas State University in San Marcos, introduced her film and encouraged the audience to do something usually discouraged during movie screenings—to tweet their reactions to what they were seeing as the film was shown. As the film was shown, some of those tweets appeared on a screen next to the one the documentary was being shown on. After the screening, the audience was encouraged to put their thoughts on poster boards that would be displayed on campus.

Each person had a unique, affecting story to tell, but as the director pointed out in the post-film discussion, they only speak from their own experience and are not intended to represent or speak for certain races, ethnicities, or sexual orientation groups.

Because the subjects speak in a candid manner, we get to know them and come to care about each. One of the most striking stories came from Man, a white woman who married a Puerto Rican man. Growing up in an economically disadvantaged family, she did not think about the pleasures of being white. “I actually married a black man, and the mother of a mixed-heritage child brought her face-to-face with the hurt of prejudice. A young white homosexual man named Brian talked about his experience, but also how he was aware that if he said nothing, he would be accorded white male privilege. Becca, a Chinese American woman, recalled being taunted as a child and being bullied in front of teachers who did nothing. Jonnie talked about coping with discrimination as a black person and as a woman. One striking voice was Richard, who noted he was accorded privilege as a white male but also given an extra advantage in this country due to his British accent.

The film was a very polished production, despite being director Patrick’s first film. The director credited her cinematographer, Dr. Salwa Khan, coordinator of instructional technology projects at Texas State University. Her professional experience includes work in broadcast news and in documentary production for NBC, CNN, and PBS.

After the screening, Dr. Patrick asked questions about the film and encouraged a lively, nearly hour-long discussion in which the audience shared their reactions to the film.

“I thought [the screening and discussion] went well,” Patrick said. “It is always nerve-racking to me, maybe it was a little dicey. But overall, the audience participated in the discussion and asked questions. I appreciated the feedback. It was an important conversation to have and I appreciated the students being so engaged.”

Continued at www.thecurrent-online.com
Matsutoyo Kai Brings Japanese Folk Music to Touhill

JENNIFER BOYER
STAFF WRITER

Matsutoyo Kai is a musical group that performs Japanese folk and classical music. They performed at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center's E. Desmond Lee Theater on April 19.

Before the show started, there was a pre-show that explained some of the instruments that were going to be played. Some instruments that were used were the shamisen, guitar, and two small taiko drums. A shamisen is a three-stringed instrument that is normally played with a special pick called a bachi.

The concert featured 18 musical pieces divided into two sets, many of which brought images to the mind. The first set started with a shamisen introduction. The next piece, “Akita Jirku,” was upbeat and fast. Two of the performers did a dance on stage as the tune was played. The next selection that stuck out was “Shigesa Bushi.” This piece brought the image of a group of men boating down a river.

The notion of travel was alive in the next piece as well, as the music moved south to Nagasaki with “Nagasaki Nonnoko Bushi.” The piece was upbeat and almost felt like a small battle was going on. The pace calmed down a bit for a romantic tune called “Isobara Beach.” The song felt like it was a calm beach on the coast, just as the singer stated it was to her. This was one of the two songs to use a guitar instead of a shamisen.

The matriarch of Matsutoyo Kai, Sato Matsutoyo, then performed two shamisen solos. The solos contrasted with each other. The first was calming, while the second was stronger in sound. This was reflected by the lighting in the background. The first song featured blue lighting, while the second background featured red. The first set finished up with “Hokkai Bon Ura,” a festive song that is for the summer festivals when the ancestors come back and have fun.

The second set started with a shamen solo and then moved to “Akita Nagamochi Uta,” a song for celebration, mostly for weddings. “Akita Bushi” had a slow tempo but still felt like a song of celebration. “Gion Kouta” was a dancing tune, accompanied by some dancing with a fan. “Tenryu Kozaeba” reflected the flow and beauty of a river.

Another love song was “Kushi Kono Bushi.” The song had the audience participate in the singing with a phrase that was saying how much love there was for the person. The mood changed a bit with “Takeda no Komori Uta,” also known as “Lullaby of Takeda.” The song is about a girl who was sold as a slave and wants to go back home to her family. This was the other song that used a guitar, and it made a difference. The tone was sweet and somber at the same time.

The last song was “Kita Kyushu Tanko Bushi,” a coal mining song. The audience participated in this piece as well. However, instead of singing, they were dancing a simple and fun dance.

Matsutoyo Kai did a great job of bringing Japanese folk music to the Touhill and hope fully will return here soon.
Greek Week Highlights: Service and Competition

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Basketball and volleyball games took place at the same time in the Mark Twain gym at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The girls played basketball while the boys played volleyball and then they switched halves of the gym. Volleyball was played with six players on each team. The first team to get to 25 points won the set. Each game consisted of two sets and the teams switched sides at the end of the first set. Basketball was more rigid in time causing the women to be done with their games before the men were done with their games. Basketball consisted of 11-minute halves and no point limit like volleyball.

The first game was Zeta Tau Alpha versus Delta Zeta. Devon Stegemean, sophomore, criminology, led an impressive offense, making several three pointers for Zeta Tau Alpha. Caroline Ryan, sophomore, nursing, and Lindsey Nolan, sophomore, business administration, were key players of the Delta Zeta offense and defense that made the game close. After halftime they came back out to close the difference. Alpha Xi Delta ended the second half with a stronger defense and offense than the previous half, making Zeta Tau Alpha work for each point. Zeta Tau Alpha eventually won.

Pumped after the basketball and volleyball wins, Zeta Tau Alpha’s Nicki Hodges, freshman, media studies, said, “Teamwork is the biggest contributor to our wins today. There truly is a sense of synergy in the group. The twenty girls on the sidelines, along with the players, really helped us win all of our games today.”

The games were so competitive the teams ran out of time at the Mark Twain gym. The men’s final basketball game of Greek Week was Alpha Xi Delta versus Zeta Tau Alpha.

The third basketball game for the girls was Alpha Xi Delta versus Zeta Tau Alpha. Both teams had blue and white jerseys made for the competition, so Zeta Tau Alpha players wore regular t-shirts to not confuse players in the game. Galka made the first basket of the game for Zeta Tau Alpha, carrying over her success from the previous game. Zeta Tau Alpha had great teamwork between Galka and Kathryn Gerler, junior, accounting. Alpha Xi Delta would not be discouraged. After halftime they came back out to close the difference. Alpha Xi Delta ended the second half with a stronger defense and offense than the previous half, making Zeta Tau Alpha work for each point. Zeta Tau Alpha eventually won.

Baseball at GLVC Tournament In Peoria III. @ TBA
Baseball vs. Peoria (Away Game) @ 12:00 & 3:00 p.m.

Hockey was played Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Mark Twain gym in two 10-minute halves. This event was a single gender sport and the winners were Alpha Xi Delta and Sigma Tau Gamma. The final sporting events of the week were on Friday on the practice field. The very competitive flag football games started with the women’s game at 10 a.m. followed by the men’s around 12 p.m. The football game halves were timed at 15 minutes for the women, but the games were still taking too long, so the time was cut down to 12-minute halves for the men. The winners of the football games were Zeta Tau Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma.

Softball was co-ed and took place right after the football games ended. The teams were Sigma Tau Gamma and Delta Zeta.

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The results are in! Students, faculty, and staff of the University of Missouri—St. Louis were all waiting with bated breath this past week to discover which of the TritonStore’s mannequins won the game of Survivor. There were twists, turns, full-frontal plastic nudity and nudity may not have been a simple matter of survival of the creepiest.

As students arrived at North Campus last week, many were greeted by the disturbing, primitive scene surrounding them—something taken straight from a Penny-a-Day ad for third world countries. But now those very creepies are on campus, driving past the destroyed University Blvd. and proceed- ing to the Millennium Student Center. It was there that the more observant or absent-minded students knew what had happened in overnight and made off with the contents of the TritonStore, leaving only fancy napkins to conceal the private bits of the mannequins. Fears quickly subsided after famed television host Jeff Probst arrived and announced that UMSL’s display case would become the site of CBS’s Survivor: Campus Bookstore.

“Administration thought the television show would be a great opportunity to showcase UMSL’s school spirit...and to sell more snack-size cereal and gummy bears packs for $5 a bag,” Lisa Oberpreiss, Triton-Store Cheermeister told The Current. “The game began with the mannequins stripping off their gear in favor of iconic Survivor buffs. Next, they were divided into two teams—SummerWear and WinterWear. Then, the teams created camps on construction sites, where they built fire and roasted fish speared from the ponds.”

Ms. Oberpreiss continued to describe the competitions, one of which consisted of calling the bookstore for assistance. The first mannequin to receive a call-back from a manager won immunity. Another game required mannequins to order their books and request ‘used’ copies. If the mannequin received a used copy instead of an over-priced new edition automatically charged to their account in its place, they were taken on a helicopter ride down Natural Bridge Road.

The winner, of course, was the female mannequin clad in a tribal skirt and a bustier, who strolled into two pieces and duct-taped over her plastic breasts. She closely beat out her competi- tor, the male mannequin in a buff loincloth, by betraying her alliance and applying makeup before the final vote.

The week before finals, so that your memory has enough time to register and store what you are pouring in.

3. Prepare your study snacks ahead of time. And don’t make them super elaborate! If you need to eat your snacks with a knife and fork, that’s not a snack—a full-blown meal. Your study snacks should be easily reachable in a moment’s notice, easily closed and should not accumulate on your work space, and at least vaguely healthy so you do not have to feel guilty about them afterward. Chips, granola or protein bars, dried fruit, nuts, and prepackaged snacks like deli sandwiches are good items. Throwing in some sweets to keep your energy levels up and because they just taste good, is okay. Seriously, once you discover to-go Nutter cups, you won’t want anything else.

4. Talk to your professors. They care about you and your education, even if they do not always act like it outwardly. It is okay to tell your professors that you are feeling nervous or stressed out by exams. Feel free to ask what material will be covered on the exam, what format it will be in, how much time students will have to finish, etc. Talk to your teaching assis- tant too, if they have one; they will most likely be involved in writing the exam anyway. Just do not try to ask for an early version of the test; they are ulti- mately useless if the professor is not using it anymore, and it may look like you are trying to cheat. And after following all of these tips, you are obviously way ahead of the game with your study plan and will most definitely be the one to hold the frosty popsicle in North Dakota. And I see it in Russia. They’re going to turn it around here, if we bring that public trust and confidence back right here, they’re going to see it in Russia. They’re going to see it in North Dakota. And I hope that everyone is on board.”

Ben Fogle understands that he and the other council members have a rough path ahead of them in the quest to help rebuild their beloved city. And in conclusion to the swearing-in ceremony of Tuesday night, with a hopeful voice Councilman Bell stated, “I intend to be a part of the solu- tion. ‘Thank you for your trust in me and I hope to validate that trust.'
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