

The State News

WEEKEND

Coming Home, Going Green



GEORGIA RHODES/THE STATE NEWS

From left to right, Student Alumni Foundation members Taylor Parker, a James Madison junior, microbiology senior Mike DelBene, accounting senior Tory Maynard and elementary education junior Janel Rutzen work together to construct their Homecoming float Wednesday night at Spartan Stadium.

Homecoming brings alumni together; students prepare for eco-friendly festivities this weekend



More online ...

To see a video of students building floats made of recycled materials, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

By Meredith Skrzypczak
THE STATE NEWS

From the moment he received his acceptance letter to MSU and stood in a cap and gown to accept his degree, Jim Goodheart knew he was beginning a journey that would last a lifetime. "When I was an applying student as a senior in high school and when I got my letter of acceptance, I just felt it was so significant that they were willing to entrust me and enroll me as a student," he said. "When they invested in me and they bestowed their degree in me ... my ties with MSU were lifelong."

Goodheart graduated in 1976 and now is a member of the MSU Alumni Association National Alumni Board and is on the Advisory Council, which keeps him connected to the school and its Homecoming events.

He is one of thousands of alumni, current students and community members who will arrive this weekend for MSU's Homecoming events, proudly showing off his green and white.

Go green

This year's theme, "We've Always Been Green," reflects MSU's goal to be more environmentally friendly and sustainable, university officials said.

From floats made out of recyclable materials to more Homecoming organizing online, the school has continued to set the bar in environmental standards.

"MSU is front and center in taking the lead," said Gordon Guyer, a grand marshal and former MSU president. "(Everyone) from the president down to the last student has some interest and some priority in recycling and keeping things green."

Sending an environmental message to alumni is impor-

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ASMSU looks into pay policies; review might have political motivation

By Zane McMillin

THE STATE NEWS

In light of recent wage fraud allegations against a student government chairperson, members of ASMSU's Academic Assembly said the Code of Operations is in need of an update to make the document's language more decisive when similar matters arise.

Group officials said even prior to the accusations, the assembly collectively understood the need to revamp the code and included the task on its list of objectives for the

year. The allegations brought against the chairperson also have a possible political agenda behind them, stemming from a former chairperson who stepped down last spring and lost re-election to the current chair.

ASMSU spokesperson Portia McKenzie said the group needs to rework the code to make it a more decisive document. McKenzie cited the Oct. 6 incident when a former Academic Assembly member accused assembly Chairperson Kristy Currier of receiving \$2,228.55 during the summer in

spite of being out of state on an internship.

"In the future, it would be easier if people didn't have to speculate certain things," McKenzie said. "Some things will still need to be interpreted ... but there needs to be a little bit more specific detail in (the) code."

Former assembly member Ryan Starski, who represented the Residence Halls Association from March until mid-September, accused Currier during public comment of neglecting her duties while being paid about \$455.71 every two weeks

for 10 weeks this past summer. He also said Currier violated sections of the code that require the chairperson to work 12 hours per week during the summer and necessitate those hours be carried out in ASMSU's offices.

Currier, who said she was confident she had not violated the code, said any proposed changes or updates to the current code will have to go through the assembly's Code and Academic Policy Committee. She said the assembly will make the changes at an indeterminate time pursuant to its

goals for the year.

Starski's comments arose at a committee meeting during reviews of the assembly's chairpersons. His comments divided committee members, who ultimately postponed producing a formal statement regarding Currier until this past Tuesday's general assembly meeting.

Kara Spencer, ASMSU's association director, said under the group's payroll system, Currier did not wrongfully receive money because she technically is paid a stipend for her work and is not paid hourly.

Spencer said ASMSU utiliz-

es project pay, the term MSU ascribes to its method of non-hourly pay for student workers. ASMSU staff members are not paid by MSU, but ultimately use the university's payroll methods, she said.

"(Currier) was held accountable for doing all of the hours for that semester," Spencer said. "So there was that break-in time when she was in Arkansas, but she only counted the hours that she did before she left ... and the hours she did when she came back."

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