

# Beyond the Campfire

A publication to connect past and current members of the Student Activities Board beyond Campfire letters

## A Note from the President

Hello Alumni!

SAB is probably pretty similar to the way you left it: long sometimes, seemingly endless meetings on Thursday nights, exhausting weekends loading and reloading the semi on concert weekends and unforgettable times in the office between classes. We started the semester with recruiting nine new members who were quickly acclimated into SAB the next two weekends with retreat and the Matt & Kim concert!

Beyond the successful concert, we hosted comedians Broad City, performance painter David Garibaldi, fire dancers, bingo nights, an improv comedy troupe, performer La Guerre, slam poet Ed Mabery and all of our traditional events like Pumpkin Carving and Holiday Lights!

Our largest change was the addition of a new CSI advisor, Kayla Loper. We were very sad to see Rachelle Williams, former advisor, leave but Kayla has brought a great perspective with her collegiate involvement in NACA, her two years as president of the programming board at Friends University and her masters in Higher Education from the University of Arkansas! Luckily, our trusty old man, Winston, is still around to keep things in order.

Thanks to your dedication and commitment to the board SAB IS STILL HERE! We truly do appreciate our alumni and frequently look to old event posters, evaluations, motions and scrapbooks to learn from the people who came before us! Please keep in touch and encourage those who were on the board with you to join our network of members!

Liz Marler  
President '14-'15  
em3812@truman.edu



## Your Fall 2014 Board Members:

Caity Biberdorf	Katie Bollman
Sarah Burns	Blake Buthod
Lauren Darter	Will Evans
Megan Folken	Tim Hudson
Margo Krause	Hannah Litwiller
Olivia Louderman	Liz Marler
Andrew Meyer	Julia Miller
Sarah Mislán	Mary-Kate Mudd
Rachel Mynear	Maureen Puccetti
Keaton Robertson	Mikayla Satchell
Anna Selle	Ashley Shockey
Sydney Slavin	Joey Smith
Mallory Sone	Nicholas Sutherland
Rebekah Sutherland	Alex Thrasher
Anh Tran	Katie Vest
Jake Wehmer	Laura Woods

## What Have We Been Doing?

SAB has had a very busy but rewarding semester. The Board has worked very hard in thinking up new events for the students to enjoy, while keeping our classic traditions alive. Having such an exciting fall semester has only made us more eager to jump into the spring. Here is everything that we were up to during the fall 2014 semester:

Her	Back to School Bash
Mission IMPROVable	Campus Feud
Blast from the Past Bingo	Matt & Kim
Some Like it Hot	Pyrotechniq Fire Dancers
Pumpkin Carving	Halloweek
Hocus Pocus	Ed Mabrey
David Garibaldi	Open Mic Night
Broad City	Holiday Lights
Entertainment Survey	La Guerre
Guardians of the Galaxy	Holiday Promo Day

## What Were We Doing?

One of the reasons the Board is so successful today is because we look to old events, evaluations, and motions to get a better sense of what this Board has always been about. In this spirit, here is what the Board accomplished this time of year 10 years ago in 2004:

Yellowcard  
In The Hot Seat  
NACA  
Eric Lyden  
Cats Excursion: Trip to MU  
Daniel James  
Ralph Nader  
Rocky Horror Picture Show  
The Laughing Irish Comedians  
Focus Groups and Big Survey  
Monkey Madness  
Guster  
Mini Golf on the Mall  
Dog Days Duck Pond  
Fall Drive-In  
Art on the Quad

## From the CSI to SAB: Kayla Loper

Hello SAB Alumni!



I was very excited to be asked by CAD to write a quick introduction for the newsletter as the new Program Advisor for Campus Activities in the CSI! The past six months have been a fast-paced transition to all things Truman, including working with the exceptional current members of SAB. I can say without hesitation that SAB is an organization to be proud of and we have a fabulous lineup of events for the spring semester that I hope some of you are able to check out!

My love for event planning and higher education began at a tiny liberal arts college in Kansas called Friends University (yes most people are friendly there, no none of the cast of Friends went there). At Friends I was an active member of FACE, Falcon Activities & Campus Events, as a committee member of the Homecoming and spirit squad committees, Director of Finance for a year, and President for two years. My advisors and my involvement in the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) helped me realize that a career in higher education would be very fulfilling and that I could get paid to mentor students through the event planning process. I received my M. Ed. in Higher Education from the University of Arkansas where I had the opportunity to develop new programs during Welcome Weeks, for the Associated Student Government, and the academic library.

I am excited to be working at Truman where the staff and faculty truly value liberal arts education and the students impress me with their creative ideas every day. Innovation and tradition are strong in SAB, and a large part of that is thanks to all of you! Although I feel like I already know many of you through campfire letters, stories of SAB past, and old evals, I would love for you to stop by the Center for Student Involvement for a first "hello" in person if you find yourself in Kirksville! Go Bulldogs!

# Alumni Spotlight:

## Rachel Merlo

What are some of your favorite events/memories from when you were on the board?

Retreat, summer meeting and concert days were always special, and I enjoyed office hours next door to Student Senate. Operating the spotlight at the Toad The Wet Sprocket concert made me momentarily reconsider my career aspirations. I smile thinking back on Winston's jokes; I can't remember a single one of them but they were something. The "Lush Committee" meetings at the Dukum Inn (in the days when it was only a one-room bar and you were lucky to have popcorn) ate into my GPA but completely enriched my spirit. Fellow board member and reluctant partner-in-crime Eileen Rueth volunteering to tag along on a summer errand to the Adair County Courthouse kicked off one of the greatest friendships I have known.



Where are you now?

I live in my hometown of Kansas City in the Brookside neighborhood with my husband of one year, Matt, and Glint, our long-haired chihuahua. I have been working for Google as the Community Manager for three-and-a-half years, overseeing community affairs in our first Google Fiber city. In

my free time, I do a lot of volunteer service/board work, and like to run, travel, try new restaurants, and cook at home.

What is your biggest life event from the past ten years?

Marrying Matt Merlo is the best thing I've done. It was worth the wait to love a man who makes me smile daily, has integrity I completely trust, and understands the right balance of independence and support. Plus he's easy on the eyes and handy around the house. I must have been really good in a previous life.

How has SAB helped shape your life and/or career?

Skills developed on SAB set me up for early jobs and volunteer work - event planning, budget management, committee leadership, responsibility to community, and much more. I also developed an appreciation for making the most of other people's time and valuing the minutes they choose to share with me. As for life lessons learned, the most important was to keep an open mind and open heart for new friendships in unexpected places.

If you could say anything to a current SAB member, what would it be?

The purpose of discussion in a meeting is to advance an idea or express a new perspective on an existing issue. Repeating what has already been said - even in different words - is not a productive use of time and should be avoided. (Paraphrasing Dan Rueth there.)

If you could say anything to a past SAB member, what would it be?

I'd pose a question: How weird is it to emphatically snap your fingers around a meeting table outside of Kirksville, Missouri?

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