

Science majors formulate success

Alicia Collins

Assistant Features Editor

Not all science majors end up in careers where white lab coats are the staple work attire.

Scott Ellis, dean of science, said the science majors, including biology, chemistry, physics and agriculture, offer a wide variety of job opportunities because of the work involved with the fields.

"To be a science major, I think [students] put a lot of time into not only learning facts, but then how to use those facts," Ellis said. "[Science] is a lot about process. It's about method, and it's actually a lot about doing the science to learn about it."

Science majors are desirable to future employers in all fields because the curriculum extends beyond the particular science fields, Ellis said.

"Getting a major in the science field, I think, provides a lot of breadth to an individual," he said.

Biology is the most popular science major in terms of students enrolled, Ellis said.

"It has a lot to do with the health science aspect of biology," he said. "I think people associate making a good living with being involved in the health field as a career."

"I feel like I have a good background [from the University], and I think that is probably the biggest thing."

Marley Doyle
Senior Biology Major

Chemistry, physics and agriculture follow in popularity, respectively.

One of the main reasons for the low number of agriculture majors, which is about 70, is that the University has

not made a name for itself around the state as having a different curriculum than what students could receive at other larger schools, Ellis said.

After receiving a bachelor's degree, students have many employment opportunities to choose from, Ellis said.



"We probably have about one-third of our students go to a professional school, usually associated with the health fields," he said. "About one-third of our students go to graduate school to get a master's or Ph.D. degree for research or teaching, and the remaining one-third goes straight into the workforce."

Science majors have gone into a wide variety of fields after graduation, such as teaching elementary or high school science, clinical laboratories, medical fields, entry-level jobs in hospitals and much more. A small number of students even take their education and become volunteers for organizations such as the Peace Corps,

Ellis said.

Some of the companies in Missouri that have hired University graduates with science degrees include Monsanto, Sigma-Aldridge, Mallinckrodt, Aventis, Cerner Corp. and the Midwest Research Institute, Ellis said.

"We have students who go into the workforce in a variety of jobs that have nothing to do with science, but they have the science skills, the analytical skills to help them with what they are doing," he said.

Senior biology major Marley Doyle said that after graduation she plans to attend Creighton University for medical school.

"I just knew I wanted to be a

doctor, and I didn't really consider anything else like graduate school," she said.

Doyle said she always has been interested in the health field, but not necessarily because of the financial aspect.

"I'm interested in anatomy and physiology, and it's basically that you're helping others [as a doctor]," she said. "I wanted to do something where I would feel good about myself at the end of the day, so it's like I'm giving back to the community."

Doyle said she is interested in a wide variety of medical fields, such as pediatrics, ophthalmology and rheumatology. Still, she said she thinks the University has prepared her for any possible career in her future.

"I really like the liberal arts program," she said. "I feel like I know a little about a lot of things. On top of knowing the sciences you need to know to get into [medical] school, you have an advantage because you also know so many other things."

Science majors have to be hard-working, know how to manage their time and make it a

point to have interests aside from science so students do not start hating something they originally loved, Doyle said.

"You need to have a life outside of science," she said. "I feel like I have a good background [from the University], and I think that is probably the biggest thing."

Freshman agriculture science major Sarah Stoll said she plans to enter the workforce directly after graduation, instead of attending graduate or professional school, by becoming a zookeeper.

"I want to go into zoology," she said. "In agriculture science, you choose a specialization, and mine is animal science."

Stoll said she could attend graduate school, but in her field, professionals with master's degrees do not earn a considerably larger amount of money than those with a bachelor's degree.

"A lot of people I have talked to just went to community college, so I don't think it's a big deal to go to [graduate] school," she said. "I decided that I wanted to go one step farther than everyone else in the field and get a college degree."

Symposium draws local color

Sara James

Staff Reporter

The new folklore minor is creating something larger than itself.

Last fall, students formed and passed the minor, which can be applied to sociology and archeology, English, history and cultural experiences.

However, few people foresaw the projects the minor would create or the amount of bridges that could be built between Kirksville and Truman communities.

In late March, the Northeast Missouri Folk Symposium took place in Kirksville because of senior Meredith Heist.

Heist took a folklore class taught by Elizabeth Delmonico, professor of English, and had to organize a senior project.

"It took several hundred hours to plan, but it seemed like a thousand," Delmonico said.

Heist said she began thinking about the possibility of a small festival last April, and once summer began, so did all the work.

"I didn't realize how much

work there would be, but it was well worth it," Heist said. "I wanted to do something to bring the University and community together."

The festival took place on the Square and had numerous attractions.

"Meredith [Heist] did the work, all the work," Delmonico said. "She wrote the grant proposal, she talked with the Humanities Council, and unlike most people, she got total funding."

Heist received grant money totaling \$1,402 from the Humanities Council and donations totaling \$5,000, Delmonico said.

The presenters spoke about topics ranging from war to Amish barn-raising to eco-villages. Exhibits such as a hand spinner and a storytelling booth also were featured. A fiddle session marked the day's end.

"The fiddle session was really fun and informal," Heist said. "That was when a lot of people just wandered in from the street because they heard the music, which was a nice way to wrap up the day."

The symposium, which will repeat next year, drew about 130 people.

"I would like to start a folklore club here at Truman and have the symposium be its main event," Heist said. "I want to get more people involved and not just do it all myself."

Another senior folklore project event took place during the symposium. During an internship last fall, senior Katherine Goodwin came across the Chariton Collector, a local history journal written by high school students between 1980 and 1989. She decided to put it online so more people have access to it.

"It's just fun to look at the history that went on here," Goodwin said. "There is a lot that we don't know about until you read it."

After Goodwin got copyright permission from the high school, she had to learn how to make a Web site.

"It was a lot of work, and now I don't feel like I'm done with it," Goodwin said. "It was just something I did because it needed to be done, and I'm glad I did it."



Photo submitted

Head academic adviser Marcy Graham plays fiddle at the first annual NEMO folk symposium.

Some of the people who wrote for the Chariton Collector as high school students were able to attend the symposium's kickoff.

All in all, organizers were happy with the turnout of the symposium.

"Katherine [Goodwin] did a

great thing for the school and the community, and then Meredith [Heist] was able to kick everything off," Delmonico said.

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