

Majors interpret graduate success

Loretta Palmer
Staff Reporter

Senior Laura Keck's face lit up with a smile as she announced her exciting news.

"I'm going to law school next year," she said. "I just found out last weekend, so I'm really excited about that. I got a scholarship to St. Louis University School of Law, so I'm going there."

Keck, a political science and sociology double major, said she would like to do some type of public interest law.

"I would really like to ideally do something that deals with children, child advocacy or work with juveniles and represent them," she said. "And then the other extreme, I want to do death row appeals. I know they're so different, but I really like both of them."

Keck said she has spoken to many Truman graduates who are in law school now, and they believe the University prepared them much more compared to other people, especially concerning research requirements.

"I think that I've definitely had many research opportunities in all of my classes, both political science and sociology, that have really prepared me for [law school research] and also the ability to synthesize all the information," she said.

Keck said that when a St. Louis University School of Law admission woman interviewed her, she

asked Keck to express to people her feelings about Truman.

"Basically I said I think we get a great liberal arts education, which I'll be honest, I didn't know anything about when I came here," she said. "I think the faculty are absolutely amazing here and all of the students, even though we're all big dorks, including myself, I think we are all very supportive."

While Keck debated about which graduate school to attend after Truman, she said she received input about the situation from faculty.

"[My adviser] sat down with me and went through all the different schools, pros and cons, which is cool because they don't tell you what to do because that's your decision," she said.

About 50 percent of the social science division graduates make the same decision as Keck did — move on to graduate or professional school, said Douglas Davenport, interim dean of the social science division.

"We think that our majors are students who ... are going to have a very good opportunity to learn what it means to work in certain kinds of professional settings as well as being well prepared for graduate school," he said.

The social science division offers students the ability to participate in various kinds of social research, which gives them the means to learn the skills and techniques to practice social sciences, Davenport

said. The social science division has a number of students going to conferences as well as participating in research projects.

"We have an ongoing project with an anthropologist, a psychologist and a student who is researching an Apache tribe in Oklahoma," Davenport said. "They are doing good work."

The division is hoping to get an archaeology lab in Barnett Hall in about two years, he said.

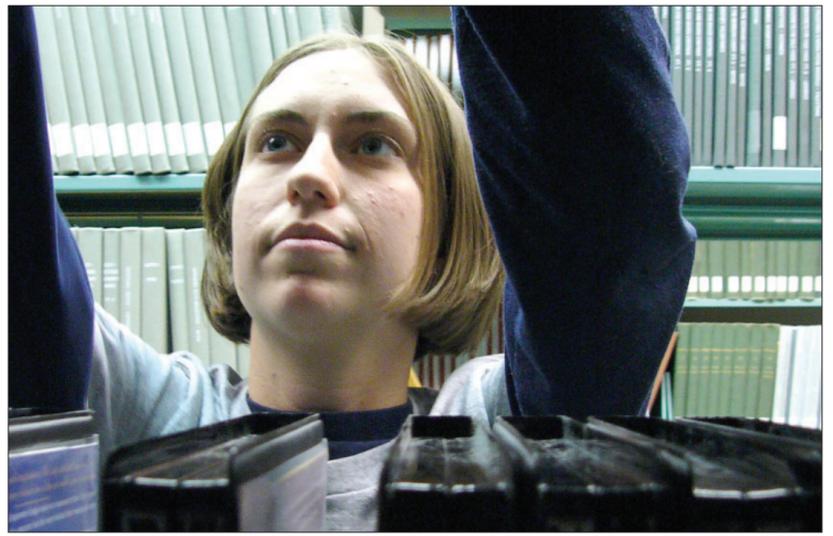
Aside from research, Davenport said internships are important to a student's college experience because they give students the opportunity to work as professionals and explore the discipline in ways the classroom cannot.

"The experience is far richer than what we can present in the classroom," he said. "It also gives students an opportunity to make connections with individuals in a prospective field, and they provide them with job opportunities."

Matt Eichor, director of justice systems, performed a survey in 2002, which revealed that about 15 percent of people had positions not related to their major.

"Of the 15 percent who said they were not employed within the major, 90 percent said that the major was beneficial to what they were doing," he said.

The survey revealed graduates in positions ranging from chiefs of police, investigators and special agents to prosecuting attorneys, legal assis-



Laura Keck, a senior political science and sociology double major, works at her library job. Keck plans to attend law school next year.

tants and college professors.

The faculty who teach the social science division graduates expose them to a tremendous amount of subject material, Eichor said.

"[In] nearly all cases, all of our faculty have worked in the field, have their advanced degree and then kind of synthesize, integrate all that into the classroom," he said. "I would put our faculty up against nearly anyone."



Local artists embrace nature in unique manner

Naomi Davis
for the Index

"Since 1950, humans have consumed as many resources as all of the other generations combined."

This quote, printed on white netting, was one of 12 other environmental statements sewn onto a quilt woven entirely out of strips from plastic shopping bags.

A statement by the artist next to the plastic blanket, titled "Eating Away Resources," pointed out the irony of the one-time-use materials as quilts traditionally are made of recycled old fabrics.

The artist's name is Cassie Phillips, a Truman visual communications alumna, whose piece of art was one of many displayed at the opening of the first ARTSEnvironmental Gallery Show on April 19.

Phillips coordinated the show as part of the week-long celebration of Earth Week and the Environmental Studies Conference, sponsored by the Environmental Campus Organization and Sierra @ Truman. Phillips said the art show appealed to a different audience than the environmental conference, which was Friday.

"Art speaks to people creatively while the conference is more academic," she said.

The Kirksville Arts Association hosted the exhibition in a large, dimly lit room on the east side of the Square. The evening sun set a mood of serenity as it cast shadows across watercolor and acrylic landscapes, multihued photography, pottery and sculpture, all tied under a common tribute to the environment.

Phillips said that because this was the first gallery show, the selection

wasn't large enough to require any eliminations from the submissions.

To the side of the room stood a long table covered by a white cotton tablecloth, with vases of lilac and little vegetarian finger-foods in brown and green earth tones.

"When you eat lower on the food chain, it has less impact on the environment," Phillips said. "And it's all deliberately finger-food, so there are no disposable plates."

Sharon Pritchard, president of the Kirksville Arts Association board, said Phillips approached the board on behalf of Earth Week after the association had gained ownership of the building and was eager to involve as many organizations as possible.

She said she saw the gallery show as a unique approach to the arts and was pleased with the outcome.

"The results have turned out to

be really fun and clever," she said. "Some of the pieces are made from recycled material, which makes a statement about the environment."

One politically driven piece was submitted by Brent Orton, professor of English, titled "Lobbied Landscape." A scenic photograph of a southwestern desert serves as a background to newspaper clippings and rhetorical statements made by the Bush administration concerning environmental policies.

"If there is anything this administration has done badly, it's environmentalism," Sharon Pritchard said.

Phillips requested submissions to the show in an interest letter as a "Call for Artists." Submissions came from both Truman students and the local community. The art was requested to express commentary on pressing environmental

issues, to be created with natural or recycled materials, and to communicate general appreciation for Mother Nature. Artists from all experience levels and backgrounds could submit work.

Among the community artists was physician Charles Pritchard, who submitted several wood-carved sculptures, including a cardinal, a bluebird and a large plate made from the underground wood — called burl — of an ancient Redwood tree. Sharon Pritchard said her husband only uses wood grown on farms where the work is permitted, in keeping with environmentalism.

"The plate is reclaiming something that was left behind into a piece of art, something that would have been wasted," she said.

Charles Pritchard said woodturning is a form of art that is friendly

to the environment because it makes use of a renewable resource.

"We don't want to use wood from the destruction of the rain forest," he said. "We use wood from managed forests, not from the burning of our precious resources."

Senior Mackenzie Smith submitted an impasto landscape painting of a sunset in the show.

"I was trying to capture the beauty and free-form of nature through the thick paint and imperfect lines," she said.

Smith said she originally painted the piece for a class, but her appreciation for nature led her to submit the painting to the show.

The gallery show is available for public viewing Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show will end May 4.

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First Come, First Serve
6:30 p.m. • South Field

Shevy Smith Concert

7:30 p.m. • South Field

Fireworks Display

Immediately following the Concert
About 9:15 p.m. • South Field

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