

Professors join craze

Truman faculty members join Facebook to interact with students in a new way

Sara DeGonia
Assistant Features Editor

Encountering a professor at Friday night's mixer or Saturday's bar crawl could be quite intimidating.

But perhaps meeting Dr. Monotone in cyberspace is a completely different story.

Since its initiation at Truman last year, 27 faculty members have joined Facebook, making up a small percentage of the 5,000-plus University undergraduate and graduate students who have created profiles on the rapidly growing Internet plaything.

Don Bindner, assistant professor of mathematics, said he thinks Facebook is very well done.

"I think Facebook is brilliant, frankly," Bindner said. "... No one would put up a Web page and put their birthday and their telephone number and their address on it. So [the creators of Facebook] managed to balance peoples' fears of letting go of that information in a public place."

Bindner said he thinks Facebook is a great communication tool, and he joined as soon as he discovered the program.

"I had a student show it to me, and she said, 'This is amazingly popular among the student body,'" he said.

Never having heard of Facebook, Bindner said he thought he would beat out most of his colleagues in creating a profile.

"You can search for faculty members on Facebook, which I did right away, hoping I was the first," he said. "But I wasn't the first. Dr. Beck was on Facebook. I was disappointed. He beat me by a week. I felt really with it when I got onto Facebook."

After creating his profile and receiving 13 friend requests within 24 hours of becoming a member, Bindner said he has become fond of several aspects of Facebook. He said it is interesting to read other peoples' political ideologies and look at pictures. He also likes the friend-of-a-friend feature.

"The things you get out of it are so nice," Bindner said.

He said he attempted to encourage other faculty members to join Facebook with little success.

"I showed this off at a meeting, ... and my faculty friends were all like, 'Don't you ever sleep? How do you find time to do crap like this?'" Bindner said. "I thought that was a little hard. ... My students thought it was really cool. My faculty friends were just like, 'You need more committee assignments, clearly.' I think it's a neat technology."

As far as the ins and outs of Facebook etiquette go, he said he has his own set of rules regarding professor-student friendships.

"I'm probably not an aggressive friend-maker, but I'm a relatively passive friend-acceptor," he said. "For example, I won't mark any of my active students as friends. I just feel like that's a little pushy. But if one of my active students marks me as a friend, then I'll say, 'OK.' I just feel more comfortable that way."

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Assistant Professor of Mathematics

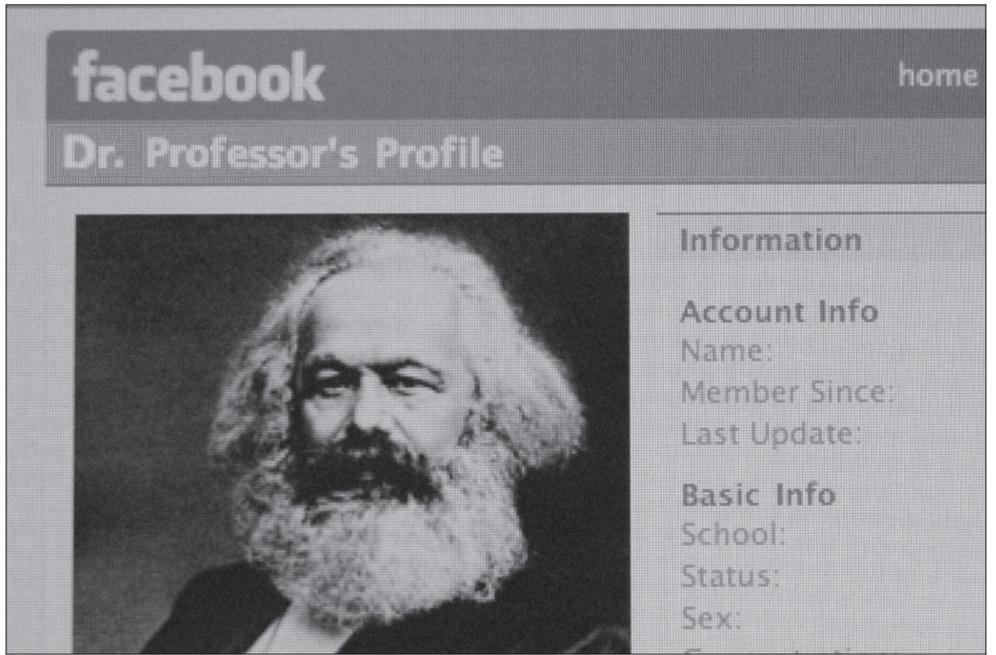


Photo Illustration by Chris Waller

Ultimately, Facebook serves as a useful tool in finding former students to look after his daughter, Bindner said.

"I also know that next semester when they're not my students anymore, and I'm looking for a baby-sitter, I might be able to go to Facebook and say, 'Oh, I know that person really well, they marked me as a friend,'" he said. "And so now I have their cell phone number, and I can give them a call and see if they're free on Saturday to baby-sit. That's the thing I use it for the most so far."

Sophomore Stephanie Kimball said she first met Bindner when she went to the same karate class as her roommate and Bindner. Kimball said Bindner then requested her as a friend after he joined.

"I thought it was really cool the first time that he Facebook-ed me," Kimball said. "I was like, 'Oh, I didn't know faculty could actually be on Facebook.' I'm all for it. I think it's a really good idea. It gives students the ability to get

to know their faculty members a little bit better out of class."

As far as standards and protocol professors might want to follow in Facebook friendships, Kimball said she thinks it's entirely the professor's decision.

"If you friend one person in a class, then you probably ought to friend the whole class," she said. "So from their standpoint, it would probably be more comfortable for them to just wait for their students to friend them. But I think it would be up to their discretion."

Kimball said she doesn't worry about faculty on Facebook as an invasion of privacy, but she thinks other students might.

"I wouldn't think that it would be all that big of a deal because I know, at least as far as the college environment goes, it's a lot closer faculty-student relationship than in high school," she said. "I think as far as college goes, I don't think it would be a big problem."

She also said she thinks students needn't worry about editing their content because of faculty on Facebook because the professors are not naïve.

"I think the faculty kind of expect the students, a lot of them, to be kind of crazy because we're in college," she said. "And so - no, I don't think we should censor."

Sophomore Courtney Wallace is a Facebook friend of Cole Woodcox, professor of English. She said she does not think faculty on Facebook will be a problem for students. She said that when she first mentioned it to some friends, they thought it would be creepy, but she considers Facebook a free space.

Kimball said she thinks some faculty members might not create a Facebook profile because of their age.

"Probably for a lot of the faculty, a lot of them are of the generation that doesn't particularly care for computers, and so they wouldn't be as willing to indulge in getting on Facebook," she said.

Students promote fair trade to Kirksville consumers

Women start group to make changes in world economic future

Maggie Wolcott
Staff Reporter

A new campus organization is encouraging people to be responsible consumers and raising awareness about fair trade.

Sophomores Katrina Brink and Rachel Hogan are co-presidents and founders of RAFT, or Responsible and Fair Trade.

Brink said the two decided to start the organization after attending a Student Sierra Coalition training workshop outside San Diego last summer.

"We felt really passionate about these issues, and we wanted to bring them back to campus," Brink said.

She said they toured an area of Mexico to see first-hand the terrible working and living conditions many Mexicans face while working for American-based companies.

She said a lot of the factory workers live on \$5 per day.

"There is no possible way to live a dignified life on those wages even in Mexico where things are cheaper," Brink said.

Many factory workers are forced to live in shacks near the factories because they cannot afford transportation.

She said they saw one village where 10,000 people were living next to a toxic dump site.

"Environment issues have so much to do with people's quality of life and basic rights every human should be allowed to have," Brink said.

Hogan said fair trade products allow the makers of the products to receive more profit rather than increasing the salaries for CEOs of large corporations.

"Fair trade focuses on having an open market, but also not allowing corporations to run over a country's policies, like environmental and labor policies, in order to get the most profit," Hogan said.

The fair trade movement encourages people to be responsible consumers even if they have to pay a little more for a product, Hogan said.

"[Fair trade] products are a little more expensive, but it is worth it when you think about supporting laborers, people just like you, but living in a different country, trying to survive," she said.

Hogan said Sugar, a store located downtown on the Square, offers a lot of international products that are all fair-trade certified.

"The U.S. can order Ghandi chocolates and Kenyan coffee, but the laborers aren't suffering, aren't getting a dollar a day,"

Fair trade policy advocates Second & Third World exports to developed countries

Pros

- Discourages sweatshops
- Improves management of natural resources
- Fewer chemicals used in production
- Raises standard of living

Cons

- Causes outsourcing
- Questionable success of policy in aiding economies
- Promotes higher foreign product consumption
- Might create trade deficit & currency manipulation

Design by Roger Meissen

Hogan said. "They are getting livable wages, and the environment isn't suffering because there are still environmental standards in place."

Hogan said more than prices need to be considered when choosing where to shop and

which products to purchase.

"We are trying to get Truman students and other people in the community to recognize more than just the financial costs of their decisions and that there are environmental costs and costs to the producers," Hogan said.

see some local produce in the cafeteria by the time she graduates.

Brink said there is a significant difference between fair trade and free trade.

She said free trade started out by reducing tariffs for imports and exports but now is more concerned with reducing non-tariff barriers to trade. Environmental laws and labor rights have become barriers to trade because corporations are not making enough money, Brink said.

"[Fair trade] is letting the economy work, but letting it work for the people, locally and globally," Brink said.

She said Students for Social Change is another campus organization that works a lot with fair trade issues. She said the organization encourages students to be responsible consumers, and she encourages supporting local stores instead of Wal-Mart.

Sophomore Meaghan Quinly said she is involved in RAFT because fair trade is an important issue.

"As consumers we need to be more conscious of the products we buy," Quinly said.

She said living in Kirksville can make it difficult to buy all fair trade products, but buying fair trade coffee and chocolate are steps students can take.

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Busch 12 pack 7⁰⁹	\$21.99 +tax	\$19.89 +tax	\$20.89 +tax
\$3⁸⁹ Pepsi 12 pk	Camel ctns.	Monarch ctns.	ICE HOUSE now hiring sales associates
\$3⁸⁹ Coke 12 pk	\$22.49 +tax	\$18.09 +tax	
Cappuccino	Winston ctns.	GPC ctns.	• Full- and part-time • Flexible hours • All shifts available • One year bonuses • 401K retirement plan • Paid vacation • Personal days Apply at any Ice House
"America's fastest growing hot beverage"	\$21.19 +tax	\$20.89 +tax	
Enjoy these great flavors: French vanilla, Cinnamon vanilla nut and Pumpkin spice.	Virginia Slims ctns.	Pall Mall ctns.	
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