



Kelsey Vaughn/Index
Seniors Marjorie Hoffman and Ilana Barash use one of the many new computers in Pickler Memorial Library on Tuesday night. ITS recently purchased 210 of the Dell computers.

Lab welcomes plethora of PCs

Kyle Bybee
for the Index

Information Technology Services spent almost \$200,000 in fewer than four hours.

On Feb. 2, ITS purchased 210 state-of-the-art computers for \$199,710 from Dell, Inc.

The new computers, which cost \$951 each, come equipped with DVD-burning software, 80-gigabyte hard drives and 17-inch LCD flat-screen monitors. The price also includes a three-year warranty and maintenance program. The computers replaced an entire computer lab on the third floor of the Pickler Memorial Library.

"It was the end of quarter, so [Dell] was very interested in making a deal," said Chad Tatro, director of client services. "But, if we were going to be able to participate in this pricing, then we really needed to work out something that day."

Tatro said Dell, Inc. gave ITS an excellent quote on the computers but gave the University a very short amount of time to make a decision.

He said he was impressed with the quick response from the business office, and the purchase would not have happened

if the office had not quickly responded.

Tatro said he thinks it was the quickest response the business office had ever given him.

The price the University ended up paying was \$400 less than the educational price per unit, which already is a 10-percent discount from the list price of \$1,300.

Tatro said the reason the University could purchase the computers at a lower price than the educational price per unit was because of the high quantity of the purchase and perfect timing.

"I thought [the price] was great," Tatro said. "I am in the market for a computer myself, and I said: 'Man, I wish I could pick up one of these.'"

Tatro said that when the computers were delivered, the actual installation took a team effort involving multiple divisions.

The installation of the new computers began Feb. 21 around 4:30 a.m. and was completed around 6:30 p.m.

"We had a crew of several staff and student workers that worked on the actual installation," Tatro said. "We had some excellent help from the Physical Plant with the movers."

So far, many students seem to

enjoy the new computers.

"I think [the computers] are really amazing," senior Katy Parker said. "They're a huge step up from the computers that we've used before."

Parker said she spends more time in the library as a result of the new computers.

Tim Warren, executive director of ITS, said the new computers are part of a project that was initiated to keep campus technology up-to-date.

"We want to get a life cycle replacement policy of computers so that every four or five years you get a new computer to keep up with technology," Warren said.

Warren said the computers needed to be replaced in the library because they did not run all of the software properly.

He also said the computers in the library were no longer under maintenance, which meant that it cost more money to fix them when they broke.

Tatro said the old computers in the library were all wiped clean and will be auctioned off in the University surplus auction.

"I was very pleased that the administration was able to fund this purchase," Tatro said. "I hope the students like it."

Computer skill requirement sparks debate

Ashley Williams
for the Index

Truman's computer literacy requirement might be eliminated soon.

The Undergraduate Council will review a motion to eliminate the Computer Literacy Essential Skill from the Liberal Studies Program at today's meeting, despite Student Senate's desire for it to remain and undergo revision, according to the minutes of the Feb. 16 UGC meeting. Assessment data has revealed that most incoming freshmen either already possess the skills outlined in the Computer Literacy Essential Skill or acquire the skills through collaborative learning, according to the UGC's proposed Computer Literacy Resolution.

Senate, however, approved a resolution in support of an updated Computer Literacy Essential Skill on March 5.

"I think the way [the essential skill] is currently written is insufficient because it basically says that our students need to know how to print and save documents," said junior Angela Crawford, a senior senator.

Both Senate's vision document "Truman Tomorrow: Arete" and Senate's resolution call for more computer litera-

cy requirements in the curriculum, such as competency in basic Web design and spreadsheet usage.

Crawford said she thinks she would experience difficulty attempting to locate any student unable to perform the tasks required by the essential skill. She said she would like to see the requirements expanded so they are more applicable to today's technology standards.

"Students should be able to develop those skills while they're in school so when they leave, they don't feel as though they're left behind," Crawford said.

Scott Alberts, associate professor of mathematics and chairman of the UGC, said he thinks it is interesting that the student senators would like to expand the computer literacy requirements while the faculty thinks Truman needs fewer requirements.

"I already think you can't be successful at Truman if you can't use computers," Alberts said.

However, he said the UGC is torn regarding the elimination of the essential skill.

"On the one hand, a lot of people feel our curriculum is too big," Alberts said. "On the other hand, we like the state to think we teach our students good things, and certainly teaching

them computer things is good."

Alberts said the essential skill is a "ghost requirement." He said computer literacy is required for everyone, but it is left up to each major to teach and each division to oversee.

He said no one in the UGC is suggesting that Truman faculty should stop teaching students to use technology.

However, Scott Thatcher, associate professor of mathematics and chairman of the UGC's Computer Literacy Committee, said the UGC's motion to accept the elimination of the essential skill is contrary to the majority opinion of his committee.

In the committee's report released in January, the committee recommended requiring divisions to document how students meet computer literacy requirements, establishing computer literacy exams for students whose majors do not provide satisfactory documentation and creating a series of tutorials and generic course modules to assist students and faculty.

Thatcher emphasized the importance of students attaining information literacy, which equips students to locate, evaluate and use information.

"No matter what form [the essential skill] takes in the future, whether it is a requirement or something we just work to

Computer LITERACY

Upon completion of the Computer Literacy requirement, students will be able to:

- ⦿ Use a computer to create a document in an appropriate format;
- ⦿ Retrieve and cite information from the World Wide Web;
- ⦿ Utilize electronic means of communication;
- ⦿ Retrieve information from a bibliographic database;
- ⦿ Organize, manipulate and present numeric data in a document;
- ⦿ Save, retrieve, copy, print and delete files; and,
- ⦿ Recognize unethical use of technology, including copyright and privacy issues.

Source: Truman General Catalog 2005-07, p. 52 Design by Stephen Emlund

imbed in the curriculum, we would want to move it towards being more information literacy with computer literacy components," Thatcher said.

Despite his personal desire to see a more direct approach to computer literacy than the elimination of the essential skill, Thatcher said he does not think the best way to improve is to add a test or a semes-

ter-long class for each student.

Regardless, Crawford said she thinks students understand and recognize the importance of technology in today's world and will support Student Senate's resolution for the expansion of requirements.

"I hope the UGC will listen to [Senate]," Crawford said. "We are the voice of the students."

Student organization petitions conversion of empty room

Julia Garrett
Staff Reporter

Stressed-out students wanting a quiet haven to gather their thoughts and relax their minds between classes soon might have a place.

The student organization Dedicated Exploration of Personal Theories about Spirituality, or DEPTHs, is petitioning to convert an empty room in the Kirk Memorial into a quiet room.

Senior Suzy Beiting, DEPTHs contact chair and co-founder, said Truman students need a room to help them enrich their spiritual and mental health. This room would be a place to meditate, pray, practice breathing exercises and yoga or just to contemplate. She said students need to treat their mental health as a priority just as they do for physical health.

"Truman is very good at trying to educate a person and trying to keep a person healthy," Beiting said. "And we have tons of spaces dedicated to studying, a lot of space dedicated to physical health but none at all dedi-

cated to mental or spiritual health."

Lloyd Pflueger, associate professor of religion and faculty adviser for DEPTHs, said Truman students should make a point to be quiet every day and relax their minds.

"There is a tremendous amount of stress among faculty, staff and students," Pflueger said. "People aren't getting enough rest, and they don't have enough silence in their lives."

He said many students who seek a quiet environment cannot find one, even in the library. Students who want to practice meditation or pray have roommates who do not share the same lifestyle. And most students spend their days frantically without realizing their stress level is high, he said.

"We don't have a place on campus where one can be quiet and contemplate," Pflueger said. "At best, the university experience should give a student plenty of time for quiet contemplation, not for just hurried rushing, panicking."

Beiting said the quiet room's ideal location is the basement of Kirk Memorial, where one room's

doors open into the sunken garden.

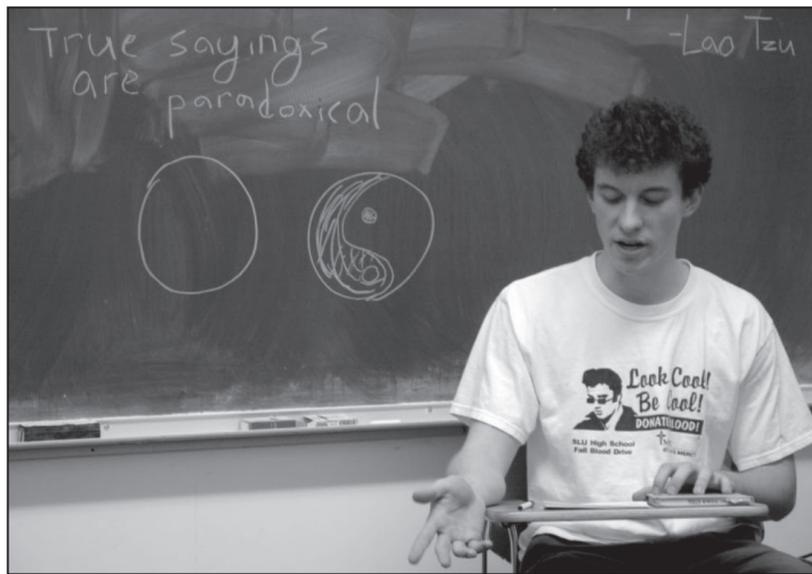
"That [location] would be ideal because nature is very important to a lot of spiritual people," she said.

Beiting sent a letter on behalf of DEPTHs to the Campus Planning Office and to Gary Gordon, vice president for academic affairs, requesting a space to use for the quiet room for both individual and groups. The space would be at no financial expense to Truman and would be maintained by DEPTHs members, according to the letter.

"Proposed decorative elements may include soft lighting; pillows; carpeting; diverse religious iconography respecting a variety of traditions, living plants, murals or wall hangings; and a community library of books, music and videos," according to the letter.

To raise money, DEPTHs members would be willing to work with other student organizations.

DEPTHs has not received a reply from either party since Beiting sent the letters in September, so she said she will send a copy of the letter to Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of



Chris Waller/Index
Freshman Mike Bono gives a talk about Taoism during the DEPTHs meeting Tuesday evening.

student affairs, and write another letter to send to the Campus Planning Office and Gordon.

The letters were sent before DEPTHs had a charter, but now that it does, Beiting said she hopes the request will be taken seriously.

To strengthen its campaign, DEPTHs is petitioning for the quiet room and will set up a booth on the Quad after midterm break to inform Truman students.

University President Barbara Dixon said she does not foresee

any problems with a quiet room on campus.

"It sounds like a good idea," Dixon said. "It's not an unreasonable request."

She said she knows little about the issue but will investigate further.

New sports bar and grill brings entertainment for college, local crowds

Emily Black
for the Index

Bringing motorcyclists to the Kirksville area is just one idea that bar owners Mike and Nichole Papas have for generating more business, with the opening of The Locker Room.

The Locker Room, a new sports bar and grill located at 106 Elson St., opened its doors to the community Feb. 28, with hopes of not only bringing in business for itself but for other businesses in the community as well.

Nichole Papas said she and her husband and business partner, Mike Papas, recently moved to Kirksville from Iowa, where they

had owned a nightclub, bar and restaurant.

She said that in Iowa, they had what are commonly referred to as poker runs, which help to generate business in the community.

"A bunch of bikers get together and ride around to different bars," Nichole Papas said. "They travel maybe a 60- to 70-mile radius and just go to each bar, go to a restaurant. It's kind of like a club. ... They can travel and give each bar business."

Nichole Papas said the poker runs usually start around late spring and end around October. She said the bikers would come through Kirksville and other neighboring communities. She also said they have spoken to some other business owners in the community to put one together.

Aside from the bikers, Nichole Papas said they hope to accommodate everyone in the community. She said their goal was to have something for everybody.

"Families can come in, have a drink, eat and relax," she said. "College kids can come over and have some fun."

She said The Locker Room offers a full bar and restaurant menu, including traditional Greek food, pasta and more.

"Our food is a lot different," Nichole Papas said. "It is not just bar-type food. Our steaks are hand cut in the house, our pizza is all fresh. We make a lot of stuff ourselves, so it's not just burgers and sandwiches. It is a wide variety menu."

She also said they hope to provide a

variety of entertainment, including bands, karaoke, and a comedy night.

Senior Elizabeth Robinson said she has visited The Locker Room twice and likes what it has to offer.

"I think it's a really fun, nice place," Robinson said. "I hope that it picks up a little more with the college crowd 'cause I think it's really nice and big."

Robinson said the amount of space in The Locker Room allows for different environments within the same bar.

"I think it's pretty similar [to the other bars in town]," Robinson said. "It's a little bigger and I guess more of a blend of atmosphere. There are enough places to sit, where people can sit and talk, but it looks

like you could also dance in there. People haven't really started doing that yet, but I think they will."

Paul Fowler, owner of TP's Office, located next door to The Locker Room, said he does not think that it will impact his business negatively.

"I really don't think it will affect us very much other than, of course, we don't serve food like they are serving now," Fowler said. "They are mainly in the food business, and they have some nice dishes up there."

The restaurant is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. for all ages. After 9 p.m., only the bar is open to those older than 21.