

# Identical twin ties aid study

**Gene-sharing siblings make similar choices in college and lives**

**Alicia Collins**  
Staff Reporter

Sharing is essential, especially for twins.

Twins on campus share everything from their looks to their interests and sometimes even their majors.

Senior nursing major Jen Anderson said she and her identical twin Sarah Anderson were given every opportunity to become separate individuals, but they always end up making the same decisions.

"When we were growing up, we kind of gradually began to like the same things, and we are very similar in our personalities, but we kind of just grew together over time," she said.

Jen Anderson said she and Sarah Anderson never planned to attend the same college or choose the same major, but after growing up with family members in the medical field, it was inevitable.

"We both grew up being interested in medicine and health-related professions, and it just fit for us," Jen Anderson said. "I think it's nice to be able to study together. It really helps."

Sarah Anderson said she thinks it has been relatively simple to maintain their identities while being so similar.

"We actually only looked at Truman, and we ended up liking it a lot because the nursing program is really strong here," she said. "It wasn't that we had to go together. We just ended up both liking the same college and then the same major."

The two share the same major, and the majority of their



Courtney Robbins/Index

Senior twins Jen and Sarah Anderson attend anthropology together Friday morning in Baldwin Hall. They are both nursing majors, live together off-campus and are looking into working at the same hospital post-graduation. Sal Costa, professor of psychology, said twins have been known to have the same responses to various situations, even when separated.

activities are alike as well, but it has helped their relationship, Sarah Anderson said.

"I think it's actually helped having the same major because we study together and are together more because our classes are the exact same and so are our schedules," she said. "It's actually helped us to like each other more than hate each other because we used to bicker a lot in high school."

The two were not planning to work in the same area after graduation, but with each of

them wishing to work in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, it looks as though that decision might change as well, Jen Anderson said.

"It wasn't something we originally planned to do because we felt the need to separate a little bit," she said. "Not a lot of hospitals will hire you right out of school in that NICU, and we've looked around, but we're both pretty much looking at the same hospitals."

Sarah Anderson is engaged to be married in June after graduation, and Jen Anderson will be her maid of honor.

"Obviously there are going to be a lot of changes after graduation, but I don't think there's any way we wouldn't be as close as we are now," she said.

Juniors Sara and Chrystal Detweiler are identical twins who share very similar majors.

Sara Detweiler is an exercise science major, and Chrystal Detweiler is a health science major.

The two are originally from Kirksville, but they were not together the first semester of their

freshman year because Chrystal Detweiler attended Central Methodist College in Fayette, Mo., Sara Detweiler said.

"It was the worst experience of my life," she said. "We were on the phone crying every day, and we would see each other every weekend. I would go there, she would come here. We were just miserable."

Chrystal Detweiler transferred to the University second semester, and they have lived together ever since, Sara Detweiler said.

"Even though my family

was here, it was like my family wasn't here because she is the person I'm closest to in the whole entire world, and it just wasn't working," she said. "And now we have the same classes and really push each other to do well in school."

Sara Detweiler said she does not think it is ironic that the two have chosen the same university and similar majors because the two have the same thought processes.

"We both like health-related issues and helping people, and we're very alike," she said. "We have the same opinions about things, so it makes a lot of sense that we have the same major."

Chrystal Detweiler said she would not trade anything for the four years she has had at the University with her sister, and they hope to attend graduate school in the same area.

"It was pointless for us to even think about being apart," she said. "I can talk to her about anything, and I know people say that about their best friends, but I mean anything at all."

Sal Costa, professor of psychology, said there has been a fascination with the study of identical twins for quite some time.

"They really seem to protect each other," he said. "Some of them even seem to talk in their own language, and it's almost like they think about the same things."

Costa said twins have been known to have the same responses to various situations even when separated, as if they are reading each other's minds.

"We have done so many studies on twins primarily because we wanted to know more about the genetic and heredity aspects to find out what actually carries over between the two," he said.

## Many exit early for the holiday

**Emily Humble**  
for the Index

With Thanksgiving break in the near future, students often are tempted to start their holiday vacation a few days early.

Sophomore Clinton Scheidt from California, Mo., said his drive is more than two hours, but he plans to go to his classes and leave Tuesday night.

"If there's not anything going on in the class that day, then I don't think it's that big of deal," Scheidt said. "But obviously if there is something going on then you should probably go."

Scheidt also said that when it comes to skipping, it depends on the student.

"Everyone has their own reason for doing things, so if they want to go home early then that's fine," Scheidt said.

Junior Danielle Leveston is heading home to Chicago early Monday by train.

"The train is \$40 on Monday, but it goes up to \$107 on Tuesday, and that is throughout the whole week, so I want to get a head start," Leveston said.

Leveston said she is working hard this week to get everything finished for Monday and Tuesday when she will miss class. She also said she is notifying her professors that she will be absent from class those days.

"I think it's acceptable if a stu-

dent lets the professor know and the professor is fine with that," Leveston said. "... I don't think it's right for them to just not come. They need to find out what exactly is going on in class."

Freshman Kent Reschke from Naperville, Ill., said he is sticking around campus until Wednesday.

"The only thing that's committing me to going to school is just my test on Tuesday," Reschke said. "The rest of my classes are caught up."

Reschke said he is at a disadvantage to those who live closer to Truman and can get home quicker.

"There are a lot of people from St. Louis around here, and they can just easily go home, but being from Chicago, I'm forced to stay here, and I should go to classes," Reschke said. "Finals are coming up, so I think it would be a good thing for everyone to go to classes."

Sophomore Jason Sinclair said he plans to leave town Tuesday night. He said when it comes to students missing class, some need to be there more than others.

"It's dependent on the case," Sinclair said. "Some people should attend class because they don't do

homework otherwise or they comprehend better when they are in class and in class discussions. Some students can probably manage it ... If we skip class, I think we should be able to make our own decisions of getting worse grades."

Sinclair said he thinks professors' opinions are mixed when it comes to students missing classes.

"Some professors probably get mad because I guess they feel kids don't care if they miss class," Sinclair said. "... Other teachers probably don't care as much because they think if the student gets good grades, they understand the material, and they work hard at other times, they should be able to still take those liberties when they can."

Scott Fouch, professor of accounting, said he has few students skip classes before the holiday.

"I don't treat it different than cutting any other class," Fouch said. "I don't do anything special to keep them there, and of course if they miss, they don't get to make it up or anything."

Wolfgang Hoeschele, associate professor of economics, said he definitely sees students missing classes, but it is the students' decision as to

whether or not they attend.

"I think it is their responsibility," Hoeschele said. "They are adults and if they think it's important enough for them to take off early and take a break, then I'm not going to argue with that."

Hoeschele said missing class might hurt the student later on.

"If that means they missed something, and that makes them do worse on the test, then that's really not my problem," Hoeschele said.

Jane Sung, professor of economics, said she also sees students missing classes, especially in the afternoons when holiday breaks approach.

"In the past two or three years I arranged tests on those days to make sure students don't miss the class," Sung said.

She said she understands both sides of the issue.

"From an academic learning side, I don't want students to miss the class," Sung said. "With higher-level courses if they skip the class before the holiday, it will actually hurt them a lot. From a personal aspect, I can understand students' interest in going home to celebrate, to see their parents and so forth. ... I understand their situation. ... I have compassion for them."

Sung said she knows some students need to depart early, and she is willing to work with them.

"I just want them to finish the job before they leave," Sung said.

**"Everyone has their own reason for doing things, so if they want to go home early, then that's fine."**

**Clinton Scheidt**  
Sophomore

**"I know that the people that I'm with now are people that I can be friends with the rest of my life."**

**Addison Schopp**  
Freshman

## Thanksgiving offers reflection for positive life events

**Three students recount reasons they are thankful this holiday**

**Maggie Wolcott**  
Staff Reporter

As Thanksgiving approaches, some people are taking time out to remember what they are thankful for.

Three Truman students shared their stories of Thanksgiving, from getting engaged to transferring to Truman.

Senior Emily Griffard said she feels she has had plenty to be thankful for during the past year.

"What I would sum it up with is so many unexpected things have happened this year, and it has been wonderful," Griffard said.

She said her fiancé proposed to her last summer, and she is getting married June 2, 2006.

"I'm lucky in so many ways," she said. "I'm getting married to a great guy."

Griffard said she hopes to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia Medical School next fall, where her fiancée is currently a second-year student.

She said she received her MCAT scores during midterm break and received a better score than she thought she would.

Griffard said she lost her voice screaming and ran around her house after seeing her score.

"I feel like I worked really hard, and it paid off, and that is nice," she said. "When you walk out of that test, you have no idea how you did."

Griffard said she is looking forward to a great internship next summer. She is a health and exercise science major, and as part of the major requirement she has to complete an internship before graduating. She said that while most students do an unpaid internship, she was lucky to receive a paid internship.

The internship will be at University Hospital in Colum-

bia, where Griffard said she worked last summer as a nurse technician.

She said she will work as a nurse technician again and do various jobs around the hospital while receiving college credit and getting paid.

"I'm super excited about it because it will be an awesome experience, and I will meet a lot of doctors all over the hospital," she said.

Griffard said it has been a fun but busy fall semester. She said she has been working on medical school applications, and one of her best friends got married.

She said she is thankful for her friends and family and how supportive they have been when

she was really busy.

Griffard said that last year at Thanksgiving she had no idea what the future had in store for her.

"I would have never projected that I would have this crazy, fun year," she said.

Freshman Addison Schopp said he is most thankful for his relationship with God and his relationship with his friends at Truman.

Schopp said that last year at this time he was in his first semester at Mizzou and got mixed up with some bad stuff. "[God] got me out of that problem, and without him I would have just stayed there and been happy with what I was doing," he said.

Schopp said he transferred to Truman after the fall semester.

Transferring schools and then reconnecting with his group of friends from high school was

the best thing that happened to him, Schopp said.

"I know that the people that I'm with now are people that I can be friends with the rest of my life," Schopp said. "If I have some kind of problem, I can go to them. They actually care about me."

Another thing Schopp said he is thankful for is the Newman Center.

"I love the Newman Center here," he said. "It is a great community. They are always offering new opportunities to do different things."

Sophomore Abigail Burns said she is thankful she has met two of her goals for the semester.

Burns said she wanted to move off campus next year and signed a lease for her house Nov. 10.

"I felt very grown-up looking for houses and signing a lease," Burns said. "I felt pretty proud of myself."

She said she is very excited to have the house because it is nice and spacious with a big yard.

"We were very nervous some-

one else was going to call [the landlord] right before us," Burns said.

Another thing Burns is thankful for this year is receiving the Disney World internship, which she will do next semester, she said.

Her brother did the internship when he was in college and now works there, she said.

"I'm going down there to do the internship and get that whole experience and also to be close to my brother," she said.

Burns said she is looking forward to a break from the traditional learning experience.

The Disney World internship is a good thing to have on one's resume even if one doesn't always do the most glamorous work there, she said.

Burns said she is thankful she has her house for next year and the internship for next semester.

"All around I think I have had a pretty good year," Burns said. "Nothing too catastrophic has happened this year."

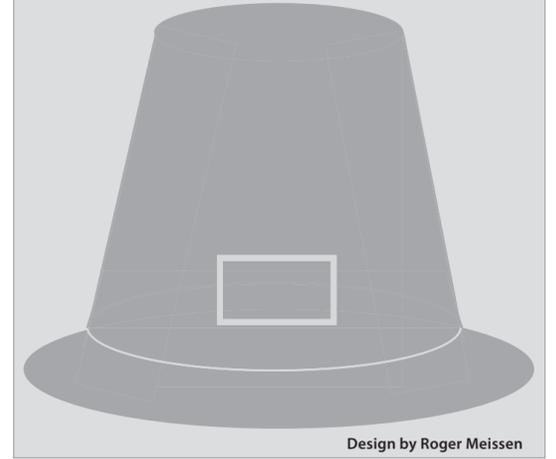
## Thanksgiving Facts

Thanksgiving started with the descendants of the Pilgrims, not the Pilgrims themselves, and was usually celebrated Dec. 21 or 22.

In 1827, Sarah Josepha Hale began lobbying several presidents for the instatement of Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

It wasn't until 1863 that Abraham Lincoln finally made it a national holiday with the 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Lincoln originally set the holiday on the last Thursday of November, but President Franklin Delano Roosevelt changed it to the fourth Thursday of November in 1939 because it was too close to Christmas for businesses.



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