

JINS fares positively in evaluation

Sara Miller
for the Index

Assessments are a common part of the Truman experience, however not all students take them seriously.

"I took the senior test two weeks ago, and I totally blew it off because I'm not going to grad school," senior Emily Kallal said. "Students are so tuned into their grades, GPA and transcripts, that anything that's assessed that doesn't affect that doesn't matter to them."

Kallal said she recognizes that assessment could be helpful in improving some courses. She took the Junior Interdisciplinary Seminar in fall 2003 and did not have a good experience, she said.

"I think it's a waste of time," Kallal said. "Liberal arts I agree with, that's why I came here, but the JINS course, I guess just my experience was not a good one."

Adam Davis, professor of English and interim director of interdisciplinary studies, received a scholarship of assessment grant from the vice president of academic affairs office last spring to assess how well JINS is meeting its expectations.

Davis presented his research, "The JINS Effect," to faculty and staff Tuesday in the SUB Spanish Room as part of the ongoing Assessment Colloquia series.

"Truman is really endowed with an assessment culture, which

means when we set out to do a thing, we want to be sure we have a way of knowing whether we did it well or not," Davis said.

Davis sampled two groups of Truman students, one group that recently completed a JINS course and one that just began a JINS course, he said. He found a JINS effect, but it was not what he was expecting, Davis said.

"Students who have had a JINS course rate themselves less competent in interdisciplinary thinking than students who haven't," Davis said. "JINS humbles them in appropriate ways. They realize that interdisciplinary is really hard to do."

Davis said JINS develops critical thinking skills in students, according to his study.

"I think the most important finding is that students think their JINS experience makes them stronger in their majors," Davis said.

He said he often gets requests from other universities for information on replicating an interdisciplinary program such as JINS at their institutions.

Davis said assessment has been important in the development of JINS, and Truman has become a model of assessment for other universities.

"I don't think it's much of an overstatement to say that Truman invented assessment in higher education," Davis said.



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Assessment culture put Truman on the national map.

Adam Davis
Interim Director of
Interdisciplinary Studies

"Assessment culture put Truman on the national map. It took us from being a regional compass point teacher's college to being a liberal arts university of national reputation."

Julie Lochbaum, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, also said Truman is famous for assessment.

"We have more assessment data than almost any other university in the nation," Lochbaum said. "Everybody looks to us about how to do it."

The Center for Teaching and Learning is one of the sponsors of the Assessment Colloquia. Lochbaum said her role is to work with Truman's assessment program to provide a forum for faculty, staff and students receiving assessment grants to share their findings with the

Truman community.

"Frequently I hear from students and from faculty or staff the complaint that we do all this assessment and that we don't ever analyze the results," Lochbaum said. "At least six times per year there are public, open, advertised programs trying to communicate analysis of results."

David Gillette is chair of the vice president's advisory committee on assessment analysis and reporting group, the other sponsor of the Assessment Colloquia. One of the group's responsibilities is selecting the grant applicants who receive the assessment scholarships, Gillette said.

He said the group awarded Davis the grant because JINS needs to be assessed from multiple perspectives.

JINS is one of the most unique features of the Truman curriculum, Gillette said, and the program stemmed directly out of the assessment process.

When the liberal studies program underwent reconstruction years ago, a variety of assessment materials were used, he said. JINS was one concept to emerge from the process, Gillette said.

"The JINS class itself was probably the most visible single change in a long time that we can point to as something that derives out of assessment activities," Gillette said.

JINS is just one example of the value of assessment data at Truman, he said. Assessment data also was used in Truman's recent reaccreditation, he said.

Students don't recognize how

much faculty value assessment or its role in securing University funding, he said. Gillette said many students neglect assessment because they do not understand how assessment benefits them.

"It's general program improvement that we're trying to do all the time," Gillette said. "That's how students benefit."

Gillette said the final colloquium of the semester will be Dec. 6. Senior Marcia Kottmann will present "A History of Assessment at Truman."

Gillette said students need to put effort into assessment for it to be effective.

"We want them to do their best," Gillette said. "Because if they don't, then we can't do our best in terms of improving programs."

DRUGS | Kirksville police officers confiscate nine pounds of marijuana and arrest three residents

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She said the individuals cooperated with the arrests.

According to a press release from the Adair County Prosecuting Attorney's office, all three individuals were charged Wednesday with one count of possession of more than 35 grams of marijuana with the intent to distribute, which is a Class-B felony. Each defendant faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in the Department of Corrections.

"Based on the probable cause statement I received, that was the most appropriate charge," Prosecutor Mark Williams said. "Once I get the full reports, it's possible more charges could be filed."

Potentially, the charges could be enhanced to class-A felonies because the residence was in close proximity to a school, Williams said. A class-A felony carries a 10-year to life sentence.

"That's one thing I'm looking at ...," he said. "But you have to be able to find evidence that they knew they were within 2,000 feet of a school. Sometimes that's hard to prove."



More than nine pounds of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia were confiscated by the Kirksville Police Department on Tuesday.

HURRICANE | Community continues to contribute to Katrina, Wilma fundraising efforts

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each other we wanted to coordinate that and make it a more collaborative project," Carson said. "It worked out really well, and we were very pleased with the result."

Carson said the success of Truman's campaign is largely attributed to the fact that several organizations were able to work together on each individual fundraising event. The money raised went to benefit the American Red Cross, she said.

Sodexho's meal donation program Sept. 7 to 9 raised the most money of any single event in the Truman fundraising program.

Director of Food Services Dennis Markeson said he was pleased with the more than \$3,800 Sodexho contributed to the relief fund.

"It makes me feel really good that students were that much concerned about it that they were willing to donate a meal and participate in, help in the relief effort," Markeson said.

Sodexho raised money for tsunami victims in a similar way last year and would probably participate in another campuswide fundraising effort if another opportunity arose, Markeson said.

As a company, Sodexho helped provide more than 500,000 meals to hurricane victims and additionally established a million-dollar program to people in affected areas, Markeson said.

The joint fundraising committee was honored regionally for its work this month by the National Residence Hall Honorary. The success of the collaborative effort has committee members interested in applying the model to future projects.

"We want to decide if this existed in a vacuum because it was a really great cause and the timing of it was good, or if there really is some sort of formula we stumbled upon that can translate to other causes," Carson said.

Shane Reiser, student coordinator of the SERVE Center, has helped develop a roundtable of the philanthropy chairpersons from each Greek and service organization on campus.

"The roundtable idea started about two months ago at a SERVE meeting because we saw a decrease in the amount of volunteers we were generally getting," Reiser said. "We decided how can we communicate with all

the service organizations, and coincidentally about two weeks later Student Senate came to me with the idea of creating a formal committee for just the service organizations."

Reiser said Senate and the SERVE center cosponsor the roundtable, which had its second meeting yesterday.

Reiser said he serves as a liaison between the original committee that organized the Hurricane Katrina relief and the SERVE roundtable.

The two groups are working to plan another week of joint fundraising events in November, although he said a specific cause has not been identified yet.

He said he hopes the success of the Hurricane Katrina collaborative project will help motivate people to get involved in similar efforts in the future.

"I think one of the biggest problems we have with philanthropy on campus is a lack of collaboration between organizations," Reiser said. "I think the hurricane relief week was huge in the sense that it did that, and if we can draw from that, it could make a huge difference in future events."

COUNCIL | Councilwoman Martha Rowe, other members step up to fill vacant positions

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Cupelli said he is not sure if he wants to take on another three-year position because he has other personal things he would like to do.

"I haven't decided yet," Cupelli said. "I have to see how it goes."

Rowe said although its main goal is to figure the budget for

the 2006 fiscal year, economic development ranks high on the council's agenda.

Macomber said that she wants to see the council address the budget immediately.

"I hope they approve a budget by Dec. 19," Macomber said.

But before the budget, Rowe said nothing can be accomplished without cooperation

among the council.

"I want to try and work together with every issue," Rowe said. "We are very diverse, and we hold different opinions."

Yet Rowe said she thinks the council will have much more cooperation than in previous years.

Rowe and Cupelli both said that they think the council will

go into the next six months with positive attitudes and without any thoughts concerning what has happened in the past two months.

"It should be a good group to overcome all the negative tension within the last year and a half," Cupelli said.

Crist and Stewart could not be reached for comment.

CAKE | Band will visit Truman on Friday

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She said they went through about 18 different insurance companies to insure the event. The \$2 million policy for the fall concert will cost SAB about \$1,300, Taylor said.

"No one wants to insure alternative rock anymore," Taylor said.

She said she is unsure about the future of alternative rock concerts at Truman.

Insurance claims for rock and alternative concerts have been rising in previous years, Taylor said.

The performance fee for CAKE is \$32,000, Taylor said. The total honorarium for the performance fee for the fall concert is \$45,000, and any leftover money will be used for the spring concert.

Taylor said CAKE didn't approve the initial publication designs, but the band eventually agreed to a design without any graphic elements.

"We had to go back to them several times," Taylor said.

Freshman Tamara Arredondo attended a CAKE concert in Kansas City, Mo., this summer and bought a ticket Wednesday afternoon for Friday's concert.

"They have an original sound, and they are fun performers," Arredondo said.

SAB sold about 1,066 tickets as of Wednesday afternoon for about a 90-minute act.

The SAB sponsored a give-away Monday afternoon on the Quad, Taylor said. She said the eight free tickets were claimed within the first half hour.

Taylor said CAKE is expected to fly into Kansas City late tonight and arrive in Kirksville by noon tomorrow.

She said the band will leave after the concert and will not stay the night in Kirksville.

Taylor said that the women's soccer club, service sorority Alpha Sigma Gamma and the Department of Public Safety will provide security for the event.

Taylor said the Physical Plant helps with the forklift to unload the truck with the stage.

The stage is provided by StagePro and the SAB helps to assemble the stage during the

early morning the day of the concert, she said. Taylor said the SAB has successful used StagePro in the past and usually doesn't have any problems.

She also said the electricians assist in the morning and return after the concert to turn everything off.

Taylor said SAB tries to work around the athletics schedule to avoid venue conflicts.

"We are really limited on the dates we do get in Pershing," Taylor said. "But the dates we do get, everybody is real helpful and works with us on using their locker rooms and using their racquetball courts."

Pat Green, the featured artist for last spring's concert, canceled his concert because of illness.

Taylor said they received all their money back from Green except for \$45.

The money covered all associated costs, including insurance, stage, hotel fees and food.

Courtney Rackers, chairwoman for the fall concert, said

"We feel that [CAKE] kind of epitomize[s] the alternative rock band that students have been wanting and shown it in the survey."

Courtney Rackers SAB
Fall Concert
Chairwoman

SAB's spring student concert survey returned with an overwhelming majority of students wishing to attend an alternative rock concert.

She said about 1,000 students filled out the survey.

"We feel that [CAKE] kind of epitomize[s] the alternative rock band that students have been wanting and shown it in the survey," Rackers said.

She said this concert has been popular with both current students and a lot of alumni who have called in requesting information about the event.

Rackers said SAB has an agent who compiles a list of names within the music genre that fall into SAB's price range.

Rackers said the planning for the fall concert began last spring and has proceeded smoothly so far.

She said word of mouth has been an effective source of publicity since CAKE announced the concert on its Web site earlier this fall.

"We really just hope that this band is what students have been wanting for their college experience," Rackers said.