

Classroom locations shift

Construction delays leave science classes scrambling for spaces in campus buildings

Amanda Boyle
Staff Reporter

Anticipation was replaced with disappointment when the science division discovered the Magruder Hall renovations would not be completed by the beginning of the semester as planned.

Scott Ellis, dean of the science division, said the building project that began in early 2002 is in its third and final stage.

The first phase, which was completed in summer 2003, added a new L-shaped addition to the south end of Magruder Hall, he said. The science division has been using that part of the building for two years. Construction on phase two, the renovation of half of the old part of the building, took place between the summers of 2003 and 2004, he said. To begin the third stage, contractors knocked down the remaining part of the building and began working in the area currently under construction.

Members of the science division scheduled all science classes according to the original plans, and when they found out about the delays in mid-July, they had to quickly find open classrooms throughout campus. He said many classes were switched to Barnett Hall.

"One of the big complications to this is that 10 out of 12 [of the Magruder Hall] classrooms are in phase three," Ellis said. "During this process, we've been teaching classes all over campus. That was done by design, though, because [the area with the classrooms] was going to be a more public part of the building."

Prior to the renovations, agriculture and physics classes took place in Barnett Hall while biology and chemistry classes were in Magruder Hall, Ellis said. He said one major goal of the building project was to bring all the science disciplines together.

Right now, because one-third of the building is not open for use, some biology classes are using the phase one area designed for agriculture classes. The agriculture classes cannot move into Magruder Hall until the new biology classrooms in phase three open up, Ellis said.

Ellis said many professors whose offices and classes were scheduled to move from Barnett Hall to Magruder Hall already had packed their offices, and some are disappointed about the delays.

"We are remaining in our same offices, and some classes have been moved to other buildings," said Michael Seipel, associate professor of agriculture. "I am about half packed and am



Nicole Meltabarger/Index
A fence separates the new additions to Magruder Hall from the rest of campus. Classes were scheduled to be taught in Magruder Hall, but because of delays in construction, many of these classes have been moved to other locations.

going to need to dig through those boxes to figure out what I need this semester."

Senior Sascha Coe said she was upset when she found out her physics class had moved to Barnett Hall.

"It's just a hassle walking all the way to Barnett," Coe said. "Luckily I wasn't late yet. It was just irritating."

Although disappointment is inevitable, both

Ellis and Seipel said they are very excited about the new building regardless of the delays.

"We've been using two-thirds of a new building," Ellis said. "We're all excited about that. The University is putting in a major amount of money to give us the best classrooms in terms of technology. New facilities make the teaching process and interactions more worthwhile and better supported by cleaner, better-designed facilities."

Jostens diplomas don't make grade

Grace Mattie
Staff Reporter

After working four or more long, stressful years at Truman, seniors were close to having nothing to show for their hard work and dedication.

The May graduating class of 2005 had to wait almost two months after graduation to receive their diplomas. Not only were the diplomas late, but they also were not from the company expected.

After reviewing the budget for the 2005 school year, the University chose a more cost-efficient company and signed a new contract with Jostens, concluding its long time contract with Herff-Jones. This transition caused one of the problems.

"We [already] knew that that would delay the diplomas just a little bit," Registrar A. Kay Anderson said.

The biggest problem had to do with Jostens, she said.

"[Jostens] missed several deadlines in terms of getting things set up," Anderson said. "We called and had some long discussions with Jostens, at which time they agreed to send our diplomas free of charge."

When the diplomas finally arrived a couple of weeks later, they contained 10 errors, including the wrong graduation date and missing signatures.

"At that point, we completely canceled our contract with Jostens permanently," Anderson said.

Jostens Communication Coordinator Rich Stoebe, however, said they knew the company would have a difficult diploma season in 2005

because of the relocation of their manufacturer from Redwing, Minn., to both Shelby, Tenn., and Topeka, Kan.

"As we got into the height of the season, we realized we couldn't provide our customers' needs," Stoebe said. "We have apologized to schools and would not want any student to have a mistake on his diploma."

Stoebe said Jostens has worked hard during the last month to make sure it met the commitments of every school missed in the spring.

"We are on our way to correcting the manufacturing problems for future generations," Stoebe said. "Our goal is to fully regain the trust of our clients."

Herff-Jones agreed to supply the diplomas, and they were happy to help because they take pride in the uniqueness of Truman's diploma design, Anderson said.

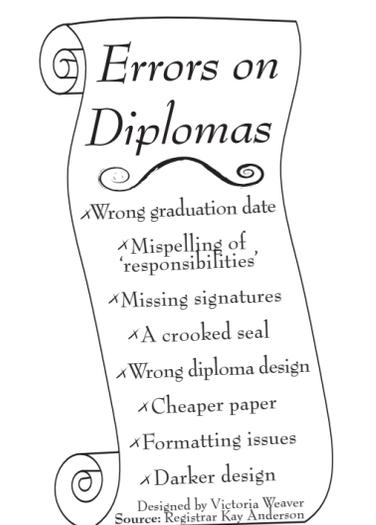
Although the diplomas were being produced at that time, graduates remained in the dark as to where they were. Students were contacted by e-mail two weeks after the expected arrival date of their diplomas.

"I'd have to say that our students were remarkably understanding," Anderson said.

Graduate teaching assistant Tiara Pettis said she was not too concerned because she knew she would be coming back to Truman, and she knew the staff was aware she had graduated. As for her fellow graduates, however, she thought they might have had problems finding a job without a diploma.

The final diplomas arrived just one week before August graduation.

"The nice thing was, the day that they finally came from Herff-Jones, the good diplomas, we



opened up the box, and we were just giddy," Anderson said. "Our entire office stopped. They came in the mail on Wednesday and by 10 o'clock the next morning, they were all checked, boxed, in the mail and with programs."

Anderson said people from all around campus volunteered to help out so the students could receive their diplomas on time.

"I just think that's a good sign of the faculty and staff that we have around," Anderson said.

Anderson said this dilemma will not happen again as long as she is here.

NEWS | In Brief

University settles claim with contractor for Ophelia Parrish construction problems

The University has settled part of its claim against a contractor regarding problems with Ophelia Parrish Fine Arts Center.

University general counsel Warren Wells said the contractor, Walton Construction of Kansas City, Mo., agreed to pay for repairs to the tile and wooden floors.

Wells said arbitration meetings concerning delays in completing the 2002 expansion have been postponed until December, and issues concerning the acoustics of practice rooms and performance halls will be addressed in a future claim against the architect, St. Louis-based Powers-Bowersox.

Kirkville Police Department asks the community to help prevent vandalism

The Kirkville Police Department is asking visitors and neighbors to Brashear Park to contact police if they observe acts of vandalism in action.

Police said vandals frequently have attacked Brashear Park during the last four months. Previous acts of vandalism include destruction of bathroom faucets and fixtures, graffiti and damage to the wading pool.

Police ask citizens reporting events in progress to call 660 665-5621, or to remain anonymous, call 660 665-BUST.

Add/drop and credit/no credit cost changes to increase after first week

The registrar announced changes to assess fees charged when a student adds or drops a class after the free add/drop period, which ends Sept. 2. The fee increased from \$5 to \$50, which will be assessed per calendar day. Students making changes on multiple days will be charged \$50 per day.

Adding a course after Sept. 2 requires a signature from the adviser and the academic dean of the division. Students cannot add a course online. They must go to the registrar's office.

Students will be charged \$25 to change a course to the credit/no credit option after the free period ends Sept. 2. Students must obtain their adviser's signature, and the form needs to be submitted to the registrar's office.

The last day to sign up for this option is Nov. 3. Only certain courses apply for the credit/no credit option. Consult the General Catalog or registrar.truman.edu for more information.

Truman honored regionally, nationally with accolades from two publications

U.S. News and World Report ranked Truman as the top public university in the Midwest region master's category for 2006. Truman ranked eighth in the Midwest region among private and public institutions.

U.S. News also recognized Truman for its senior capstone and undergraduate research programs.

The 2006 Princeton Review College Guide, "The Best 361 Colleges," includes Truman with a two-page profile. The book also ranked Truman No. 5 for "Students Happy with Financial Aid."

DPS | Reports

- 8/22 Report of Truman Bookstore banner stolen.
- 8/23 Report of vandalism at Greenwood School.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Junior Mark Kirtland, president, established two ad hoc committees. The vision committee, chaired by Senator Robert Kelchen, will draft student suggestions for a future update to the University five-year master plan. The Alternate Programming Committee, chaired by Senator Brandon Large, will work with Sujit Chemburkar, Student Union Building director, to coordinate weekly late-night activities.
- Sophomore Joe VanAmburg introduced and read a resolution requesting the campus bike racks be moved back to key locations on campus.
- Junior Angela Crawford, academic affairs chairwoman, introduced and read a resolution objecting to the increase of the add/drop fee to \$50.
- Sophomore Brett Pierson introduced and read a resolution objecting to increased prices for the washers and dryers located in the residence halls.
- Senate passed a motion to spend \$1,840 to have a student government association conference on campus Oct. 29.
- Senate passed a motion mandating senators attend the Oct. 29 conference.
- Senate passed a motion to spend \$750 to cover costs for Senate recruitment and events posters.
- Senate passed a motion to spend \$150 to cover costs of election posters and petition packets.
- Senate passed a motion declaring fall elections for 8 a.m. Sept. 20, to 8 p.m. Sept. 21.
- Senate passed a motion stating election petitions will be available Sept. 6 and due Sept. 13.
- Senate appointed and swore in sophomore Brett Pierson as Ethics Justice.

MISSING

To the party who took the horn from my Caddy Limo:
Please return and no questions will be asked.
The horn has sentimental value.

REWARD!

Robert Long 660-626-6575

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Branch in Wal-Mart Supercenter