

Courtney Robbins/Index

The Gaber Solar Clock garden was constructed by Steve Carroll, professor of biology, and students. Manual labor and planning produced a unique addition to the south side of campus. The plants' flowering times correspond to their positions on the sundial and keep time according to their position on the sundial.

INDEPENDENCE I

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reconsider the process and conceptualization of adolescence." Kuhlman said. "Economic factors cause increasing numbers of college graduates, who in the past would be jumping into their own careers, to return to their parents' homes after graduation."

Eighteen million college graduates moved back home after finishing their degree, according to the 2000 U.S. census.

Changing economic factors, such as the higher cost of living and more expensive tuition cause many students to rely on their parents to some extent, senior Allison Koontz said. Her parents pay for her tuition, rent and her groceries, but not her spending money, she said.

"I don't expect them to give me money for going out or like going out to dinner and movies and things like that," Koontz said. "I take that on my own."

Koontz also said she plans to move back home after graduating.

"I'm 95 percent sure that I'll have a job when I go back home, which is to make money before I actually move away," she said. "Because, right now, I'm not in a position to pay for anything, and my parents have offered the housing so I might as well take it."

Though many people label distinct age ranges for adolescence and adulthood, Kuhlman said this should not be the focus of growing up and becoming independent. She said it is dangerous to label and overgeneralize.

"Instead of striving to put our adolescence behind us in the process of attaining adulthood, perhaps we would all benefit by embracing the process of becoming while we worry less about what level of development we attain," Kuhlman said.

Rare clock garden keeps time

Professor and students conceive and construct solar clock garden

Eric Baumbach
Staff Reporter

The University took a trip back in time with a rare addition to Magruder Hall's southern side.

Steve Carroll, associate professor of biology, said he and several undergraduate researchers designed and built the Gaber Solar Clock Garden, which consists of a sundial and garden.

The clock garden is constructed of concrete lines and a tall wooden pole, called a gnomon, Carroll said. The gnomon is a tall square pole cut from a red cedar tree that once stood in the sundial's location and was cut down when the area was made into a gravel parking lot, he said. The concrete lines fan out from the gnomon and correspond to the shadow it casts, and as the sun changes position in the sky, the gnomon's shadow moves from left to right along the garden's length, he said.

Thicker horizontal lines of concrete cut across the sundial, marking the shadow's farthest and closest positions on June and Dec. 21, Carroll said. Also marked are

the straight lines the gnomon's shadow traces during the spring and fall equinoxes, he said.

The sundial is named in recognition of Elsie and Ron Gaber, who funded its construction, Carroll said. He said the alumni have had a long association with the University.

Between the sundial's concrete lines is the clock garden, a garden with plants that flower or smell differently at specific times of day. The University's clock garden is unique because the plants' flowering times correspond to their position on the sundial. The concept of such a garden was first introduced in the 1700s but was not created. Even today, clock gardens like Truman's are rare.

One special addition to the garden is the passionflower, a tropical-looking plant indigenous to southern Missouri, Carroll said. Its light-purple flowers bloom quickly around noon, only to be slightly withered by the next day.

"I've actually sat here and watched the flowers open," Car-

roll said.

Carroll said the sundial's planning began about two years ago in a JINS class. He said the students in the class designed the sundial's location and structure but did not have a plan for the garden.

After learning of plans to build the sundial, Carroll said he suggested that a clock garden would be a more meaningful addition to the sundial than beds of roses or ordinary plots of grass. He said he spent last year carefully choosing plants for the garden that are both aesthetically pleasing and appropriate.

"I've actually just sat [in the solar clock garden] and watched the flowers open."

Steve Carroll
Professor of Biology

"There's a lot you have to consider with a garden," Carroll said.

He said the plants had to be bought, grown in Magruder's greenhouse, or a combination of the two. When the garden was finally ready for planting, Carroll needed help from as many people as possible.

"We had students who were here during the summer helping, football players and people just

passing by," Carroll said. "It took a lot of work."

Sophomore Katrina Brink helped Carroll prepare the garden for its plants.

"There were probably about 25 to 30 people there," Brink said. "We dug up the sod from the site and just prepared the ground for planting. We took a whole weekend. It took a long time to dig up everything."

In addition to taking care of the garden this fall, Brink assists in reaching out to the Kirksville community. She said she hopes to make the people of Kirksville more aware of the unique garden.

"I'm going to work with some elementary schools and have some after-school programs with kids in the garden," Brink said.

The addition of a sundial to Truman is in keeping with the long tradition of sundials. The first sundials were used in ancient Egypt as early as 3500 B.C., according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Web site. The Egyptians observed the movement of the obelisk's shadow, dividing daylight into times before and after noon. Ancient Greeks and Romans further developed the sundial to tell specific times of day, using more



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Flowers bloom in the Gaber Solar Clock Garden on the south side of Magruder Hall on Sunday afternoon.

sophisticated shapes and types like the hemicycle, a half-bowl-shaped sundial cut into the edge of a block, according to the site.

Even with all of the effort put into planning and designing the garden and sundial, its upkeep

is still an ongoing process. Some flowers along the noon line open up at 9 a.m., which Carroll said he had not anticipated. Next year they will be moved, and additional plants might be added to the garden, he said.

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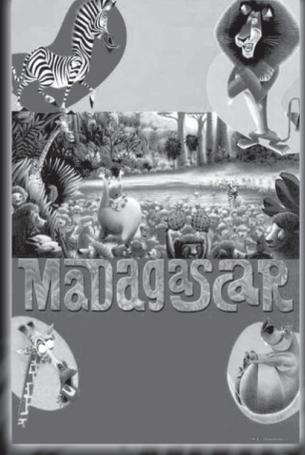
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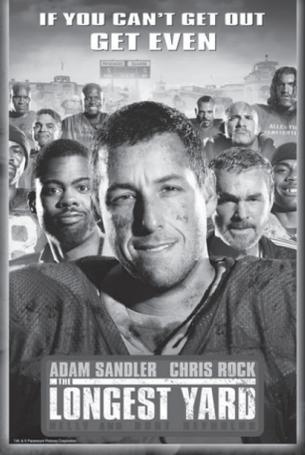
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