

# International enrollment increases

**Stronger recruitment strategies boost international numbers**

BY PATRICK FELLING  
for the Index

Reon Sines wants the world to know about Truman.

As the International Admissions Coordinator, Sines said her office constantly is trying to find new ways to inform potential international students about the University in hopes of bringing them to Kirksville. Students find Truman from many different locales, and sometimes the distance can make the transition more difficult for some than for others.

"The International Student Affairs Office helps students dealing with cultural and lingual adjustments," Sines said. "We are here to help if they have any problems. We want them to feel at home."

The International Student Affairs Office recently has implemented a new service to strengthen Truman's recruiting overseas.

"International students interested in coming to Truman now have the opportunity to talk to other international students who are already here," Sines said. "If a student from China is looking at Truman, for example, we put them in contact with one of our current students from China to give them the inside information on the University."

Sines said the combination of all these efforts has helped to expand the number of international students at Truman.

"We have definitely seen the number of international students grow each year," Sines said. "This past fall we had 113 new international students come to Truman, which is up from 67 two years ago in fall 2005."

Sines said the happiness of international students is one of her top priorities.

"We do recruitment fairs, which are similar to career fairs, where we compete with schools throughout the entire world," Sines said.

More than 580,000 international students currently are studying in the United States, which is a 3.2 percent increase from last year, according to the Institute of International Education's Report on International Educational Exchange. Nearly 10,000 of those students attend college in Missouri, including 249 students from 41 different countries at Truman.

Sines said she thinks the University's international recruiting



Mayank Dhungana/Index  
International students junior Ignatius Onyewadume, freshman Victor Adimoraegbu and sophomore Gyanendra Rai watch a soccer match in the Student Union Building on Tuesday.

success stems from strong relationships with institutions abroad.

"The most important thing is relationship building and name recognition," Sines said.

Sines said international students already at Truman also play a big role.

"We definitely utilize our current students," Sines said. "Word-of-mouth is a very important part of our recruiting."

Regina Morin, associate vice president of enrollment management, said she wants the number of international students to keep growing.

"These students are ambassadors of their countries," Morin said. "They see the U.S. can be a good ally and friend. Students leave from these experiences armed with a strong education and rich cultural experiences."

Truman and other U.S. schools face competition from English-speaking universities in other countries.

Global economic woes also might play a role in how many international students choose to study in the U.S.

"High oil prices might deter students from studying abroad," Morin said. "However, the U.S. is actually becoming more attractive to international students because their [currencies are] so strong against the dollar."

Morin said she thinks Truman's strong academics will continue to attract students domestically and abroad.

"We have a strong staff that builds relationships and helps support students while they are here," Morin said. "Truman is a quality institution, and students know that they worked hard while here and have something of substance to show for that work."

Morin said international students are an integral part of the Truman community no matter what percentage of Truman's campus they represent.

"We touch many parts of the world, and we need internationalization," Morin said. "The ability to attract cultures and religions from elsewhere around the world helps break down barriers and makes you more receptive to others different from you. It makes you see that differences aren't always bad."

For some international students, attending college in the U.S. is not always easy. Nepalese senior Sunita Pathak said that when she first came to Truman, she did not feel welcome.

"I felt outcast," Pathak said. "Even by some professors."

Pathak said she thinks the language barrier played a large role.

Pathak also said Truman's Web site and other information sheets can make Truman appear to be bigger than it really is.

Other students, like junior Nitesh Oli of Kathmandu, Nepal, enjoy the campus just as it is.

"I like the way the people treat me," Oli said. "They are cool and friendly. I also like the calm and

the peace [of Missouri]."

Oli said he chose Truman for its quality of education and its affordability. He also said he participates in the work-study program on campus.

Ted Frushour, adviser for the Missouri Hall Residential College Program, said he knows that the complaints voiced by some of Truman's international students have surfaced at colleges and universities across the nation.

"These complaints are not just limited to Truman," Frushour said. "I feel the difficulties that international students face are a result of their distance. We are not out to get them. We want them to be treated fairly and to get the same experience as every other Truman student."

When it comes to curriculum, Frushour said the LSP program sometimes can catch international students off-guard because programs in some other cultures generally are more major-oriented.

"The LSP program is valuable because it gives students a broader experience of the culture and can stretch them in more directions," Frushour said. "It is especially valuable for international students who plan on staying in the U.S. after graduation."

Frushour said making students feel comfortable is a broad cultural issue and that there is no easy answer.

*Additional reporting by John Moenster.*



Alex Boles/Index  
The New Super China Buffet will open for business next week.

# New buffet to open next week

BY ALEX BOLES  
Assistant Features Editor

Kirksville soon will welcome its fifth Chinese restaurant to town.

The New Super China Buffet is located just north of Wal-Mart next to Radio Shack and will open during the next week, restaurant employee Weng YuYung said. The restaurant currently is preparing to open by filling out the proper paperwork for a business license.

YuYung said the business manager and other family members arrived Wednesday. He said it is a family business and that the building was a clothing store before it was a restaurant. The restaurant will serve traditional Chinese cuisine in a large buffet located in the back of the restaurant, which has a spacious dining area.

Freshman Mary Peng, waitress and hostess for New China Palace located on the Square, translated restaurant owner Guojian Loiu's opinions about The New Super China Buffet.

"[The owners] felt that our restaurant has been here for a while, and it's really near campus," Peng said. "It's easier for students to come here because it's right by the Square as a comparison to all the way on the other side of Wal-Mart. So we feel like it's not going to be that much of a difference. We're not really worried about it."

New China Palace also is a family-operated business, and the owners started working there at the beginning of this year, she said. Peng said the restaurant has not had much trouble with competition and that they don't think the new restaurant will pose any problems.

"I don't feel like it's that big of an issue," Peng said.

Senior Laura Beth Cleveland said she hasn't heard anything about a new restaurant opening but that she eats Chinese food about once a month and would be open to trying something new.

"I would like to try it out," Cleveland said. "I don't know where it is or anything about it, but I like trying new things and that would definitely be neat, especially in Kirksville where new things don't come along terribly often."

Cleveland said the location of the restaurant could hinder business and that she typically dines on the Square.

"It doesn't make sense to go all the way out to Wal-Mart," she said. "I would say that it might also need to be somewhat different than all the other Chinese restaurants that we have right now, so I would say maybe the fact that we have so many Chinese restaurants, there's more of a limiting factor to people making the extra drive out there, but, you know, if you're going to Wal-Mart I guess you could just kind of stop by. Maybe that could help it out a little bit."

She said the distance would not be a problem for her because she has a car but that she does not know why Kirksville needs five Chinese restaurants.

"Five Chinese restaurants — you'd think that would satisfy the needs of a campus and a small town such as Kirksville," she said. "I don't honestly know, but I guess they suppose it could be profitable, so go ahead and try for it."



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