

# Top recycler honored

## Senior Recycling Center worker named Recycler of the Year

BY KANNA TAYLOR  
Staff Reporter

For some student workers at the Truman Recycling Center, recycling is just another job — they work their required hours, and then they are done.

To senior Stephanie Kimball, however, a Recycling Center job means much more. As a result of this attitude, Kimball was named Student Recycler of the Year.

"To me, a lot of it is just the people, a lot of really fun people," Kimball said. "I really like that part of the job."

Kimball started working at the Recycling Center three years ago as a sophomore in need of a scholarship job.

"Actually, my freshman year, I think it was during [Truman Week], they had a tour of the Recycling Center, and I came here then," she said. "I pretty much knew that would be my scholarship job. So when sophomore year came around, I was like, 'I'll do that.'"

Kimball said she does a variety of jobs at the Recycling Center, including picking up cardboard around campus and sorting the public drop-off re-

cyclables. After she graduates in May, Kimball said she plans to stay in Kirksville for the summer to work part-time at the Recycling Center and proctor for the Taiwan at Truman program.

When it comes to recycling, Kimball said she is adamant, and she encourages her friends to recycle.

"Usually, if they are going to throw away a bottle, I'm like, 'What are you doing? You should recycle that,'" Kimball said. "I've brought many blue bins to certain houses."

Co-worker and graduate student Jason Hull takes a different approach to recycling.

"When we have parties ... at my house, I bring in cans and bottles and cardboard and stuff," Hull said. "But I would say on the personal level, I don't really consume that much. So my philosophy is more, if you're doing the three Rs [reduce, reuse, recycle], more towards the reduce factor of the triangle."

Hull received the first annual Student Recycler of the Year Award in 2006. He said he thinks the primary criterion for the award is reliability.

"I'd like to think of myself as a dependable person," Hull said. "That's the main thing. Come in, work every day and you get it done."

Hull said the job of a student worker at the Recycling Center is

kind of a thankless one and that even though many people want to recycle, the actual process is not all that glamorous.

Hull said he thinks Howard Worcester, the recycling coordinator who chooses students for this award, started the award as a way to recognize and thank the students for their hard work. Without the help of dedicated workers and volunteers, it would be hard to keep the Recycling Center going.

Hull started working at the Recycling Center in 2003 as his scholarship job. He said he chose this job because it was more active than most of the others on campus.

"I kind of figured that when you're in class, you're doing a lot of just sitting around, and the same with studying and homework," he said. "So [it's] kind of just a good break from ... studying. Some of the other jobs I looked at, like being a hall desk worker or a night monitor — those are important jobs, but a little bit too much sitting for me."

He said one of the best parts of the job is the people he has met at the Recycling Center. Much like Kimball, Hull said he enjoys the conversations that take place between the workers and volunteers.

Kimball and Hull both commented on the unusual way Hull found out about his award. The pair was sorting through paper from printing services, and usu-



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Senior Stephanie Kimball, Student Recycler of the Year, works at the University Recycling Center Saturday. Kimball received the award from her supervisor, Jason Hull.

ally they see a lot of defective posters, Hull said.

"One day we were sorting through stuff, ... and I found the certificate that had my name on it," he said. "Kind of funny to find it before you actually know you're getting the award."

Later Hull was presented with the award at the monthly environmental meeting at the Recycling Center, he said.

Worcester said he started the Student Recycler of the Year Award as an incentive to encourage students to strive for the qualities they see in the

students who win the award. He also wanted to instill some pride in Truman's recycling program among the students, he said.

"I kind of pick a student that ... [if] there's one word to describe, it is dependable," he said. "So the Recycler of the Year is one that has that quality all year long. Not just a week here and a week there."

Worcester said the reason he chose Kimball is that she fits that exact description. Kimball comes to work three days a week at 7 a.m. and is never late,

he said. Worcester said there are some days when he'll be a few minutes late and she will be there before him.

"And whether it's snowing, raining, I don't care what it is, she's always here, and most of the times she rides her bicycle," he said. "It's not just words with her. She's trying to save the Earth and doing what's right for the environment."

Worcester said he thinks Kimball is exceptional and that he is very proud of her.

"I'm just glad I got to know her," he said.

# College shirt designers appeal to world market

BY STEPHANIE HALL  
Staff Reporter

Hummingbirds, a trio of robots and symmetrical elephants are appearing on T-shirts all over the world.

These fashions are produced by senior Andy Meyer, the owner, operator, marketing director and part-time model for his company Rethink Clothing.

The idea for this company came to Meyer during finals week fall 2007 while he was sitting in the library.

"[I] just [saw] people walking by wearing the same thing, and [I was] already mad because it's finals," Meyer said. "It just set [me] off further."

He said he decided to break the cycle by marketing his own design.

"I guess things really started getting rolling in January of this year," Meyer said. "I got one de-

sign out, and I needed more, so I put three more out."

Although Meyer designed the first shirt himself, he said he started searching for others with a similar creative vision.

"The catch of it is they are all [done by] college designers," Meyer said. "I have people from Utah, from Florida, designing for me."

Meyer said he doesn't consider himself an artist but that he will sketch ideas in class then give them to an artist to work on.

"At first, I was scared to tell designers what I really wanted," Meyer said. "The more you talk to them, the more it sparks their thinking, which gets you a better shirt. It's been a steep learning curve."

Anne Bakken, senior at Savannah College of Art and Design, designed the Creatividad shirt in Meyer's collection. She said she likes the freedom Meyer provides his artists.

Bakken said she found Meyer

after he registered as an employer through Savannah College of Art and Design.

"I had never thought about it before, but it was something I have always wanted to do," Bakken said. "It's the fun part of graphic design."

Bakken's design depicts a purple mirrored elephant on a silver T-shirt. Bakken said she has lived in more than six different countries, including Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Columbia and South Africa, and that her experiences influenced her artwork.

"I draw a lot of inspirations from where I've been," Bakken said. "[From] pictures, other people and their culture, clothes, dances and other traditional things."

In addition to getting their designs published, Meyer's artists get

35 percent of the sales from their shirts that are spreading quick.

"For some reason, people in Georgia love the shirts," Meyer said. "I've shipped a couple shirts to England. It's kind of real now."

It was always an idea and then the day to start selling shirts came."

Meyer said marketing has been the hardest part because the industry is there, but getting started is difficult. He said maintaining his product and vision also are important.

Meyer said he uses American Apparel shirts because they are high-quality.

"[Their shirts] are made in America, which kind of hits me because I'm a political science major," Meyer said. "It's always nice to support America."

The shirts are printed by a small company in Florida and also by a business run by two college graduate students in Utah.

"[I'm going to] try to keep pricing low to focus on the college kids and break the habit of buying corporate America's shirts," Meyer said. "Really, where does that money go? It really doesn't go back to the artist, so that's what I want to do."

Meyer is developing a fan base at Truman that like his shirts and believe in his vision.

Tracy Knierim is a graduate student in the MAE program and was Meyer's student adviser last year. Knierim owns Bakken's Creatividad shirt.

"I was going to buy one just to be supportive, but I ended up buying two because I really liked the design," Knierim said.

Knierim said she likes the shirts because they are comfortable and the sleeves are more fitted.

"I really like that they are done by college artists," Knierim said. "It's really hard to get your name out there coming out of college, and I feel like we can support each other."

Knierim said she probably will buy more of Meyer's shirts.

"I invited all my sisters to join his Facebook group," Knierim said. "They love his shirts, so I'm thinking of buying them as gifts."

Meyer said he has two designs that will be debuting soon. He said he plans to go to Los Angeles this summer to try to get his shirts in stores there. Meyer said he also has been working on a hoodie line.

"I could see it going somewhere," Meyer said. "I'm going to hit that point after college where I have to decide. I know it [will] be a ton of hard work, a lot of long hours, long nights and very scary days at the bank, but it would be at a time in my life where I would be willing to take a risk."

"The catch of it is they are all [done by] college designers."

Andy Meyer  
Senior



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