

Social networking can jeopardize jobs



Jason Williams/Index

Sophomore Kelsy Parker checks her Facebook account in Missouri Hall on Tuesday afternoon.

BY ALLY SUMMERS
Staff Reporter

What students put on their Facebook account can prevent them from getting their dream job.

But Career Center coordinator Polly Matteson said Facebook also is a tool that helps students widen their networking options.

More and more employers and graduate schools are switching to using social networking Web sites such as Facebook and MySpace to investigate future employees and prospective students, Matteson said. She said students should be careful and only put up information they would want future employers and graduate school recruiters to see.

"You really don't want to put anything on there you wouldn't want your grandmother to see," Matteson said. "Be aware that even when you put a restriction on your account, what's on your front page is accessible, especially your picture."

Matteson said that many times employers use interns or recent graduates who have Facebook accounts to access an applicant's private information.

"The information you think may be private might not be, according to how

many people you have linked with," Matteson said. "Be careful about what you publish and that nothing goes on it that would be embarrassing."

Matteson said that during spring 2006, more than 30 percent of employers checked online resources such as Facebook, MySpace and Google but that now it's closer to 50 percent.

"It's out there so there's nothing illegal about doing that," Matteson said. "They are finding out more and more information about their potential hires."

Matteson said people need to be aware about how they use Facebook, but it does have many positives. Organizations can advertise upcoming events and get exposure that they would not otherwise have, she said.

"It's not a great problem at this point," Matteson said. "But I think the potential is there that it could be abused by not just employers but by many predators."

Senior Amanda Banner said she changed her Facebook privacy settings so that only her friends can view her profile.

"I was required to do so by my sorority," Banner said. "But I would have done it anyways."

Banner said she does not tag or post pictures that suggest inappropriate be-

havior. She said students should post photos and information about themselves that is presentable.

"Don't put things up that are trashy," Banner said. "Be careful, be respectful of others and respect yourself."

Chuck Boughton, professor of business, said more people are accessing these personal networking sites.

"Treat these internet postings as you would your résumé," Boughton said. "Being very careful with the things you post and the things that you blog are things that you want associated with who you are."

More and more working people are starting to use Facebook and MySpace as a business networking system, Boughton said. There has been a tremendous increase reported by Facebook of people over the age of 21 creating accounts, he said.

"Just be careful," Boughton said. "Don't put it out there electronically if you wouldn't want your mother or father or your future employer to see it."

Boughton said he wants people to become aware that what's out there in cyberspace is accessible to everyone.

"I think the two things you should do periodically is check credit report and Google yourself," Boughton said. "See what's out there."

What's your online reputation?

Reputation Search

For online reputation lookup

- Created in 2006, RapLeaf.com allows users to search their friends, coworkers and employers in an online database.
- RapLeaf traces user's e-mail addresses to that user's online accounts, including social networking sites and various information from these sites.
- Employers can access applicants' RapLeaf pages to find out more information about them.
- To use RapLeaf, users must register their e-mail address and begin an account.
- When another user searches your e-mail address, that address is added into RapLeaf's database.
- Users without a Rapleaf account still can search other people's e-mail addresses.
- RapLeaf is similar to other social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace, except all of these sites are compiled into one.
- Applications include: Age, birthday, school, friends, social networks and favorites.

To defend your online reputation

- Created in 2006, ReputationDefender.com is a Web site dedicated to protecting its users' reputations.
- MyReputation promises to search for all of a user's information on the internet and then will attempt to destroy everything negative about that user.
- By signing up for its services, MyReputation will send each user a monthly, interactive report entailing all information found.
- Users can contact their personal reputation expert to destroy any selected content that they do not like.
- MyReputation gathers information from social networks (Facebook, MySpace, Friendster), professional Web sites, news sites, media sharing sites and many more.
- Motto: "Our commitment is to your peace of mind. Our goal is to watch your back."

Sources: RapLeaf.com and ReputationDefender.com
Design by Jessica Rapp and Laura Prather/Index

Career Expo

Fall 2007

October 10th
1 to 5 PM in the SUB

Map out Your Future Sessions

sponsored by the Career Center

Deadlines

- Sunday, September 30 -- Deadline to apply for jobs and upload resumes on eRecruiting to be pre-selected for October 11th interview slots.
- Anytime before Expo--Pre-register to attend at [http://career.truman.edu/Career Expo/home.asp](http://career.truman.edu/Career%20Expo/home.asp).
- Check out Expo employers and posted job or internship listings online at <http://career.truman.edu>.



See you at Expo!

For assistance in preparing for Expo stop by the Career Center

October 3rd

- Career Day on the Quad
- Register for Expo
- Have your resume reviewed
- Enjoy music, soda, and popcorn

October 4th

- Mock Interviews
- Held in the Career Center with Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). In-person sign-up in the Career Center is available now. Resumes must be turned in 24 hours in advance of interview. Professional dress is required.

October 8

- Mock Interviews
- Held in the Career Center with company representatives from Steak n' Shake and Eli Lilly. You must sign up and submit your resume in-person in the Career Center. Professional dress is required.

October 9

- Mock Interviews
- Held in the Career Center with company representatives from Steak n' Shake, and Eli Lilly, and Edward Jones. You must sign up and submit your resume in-person in the Career Center. Professional dress is required.
- "Ace the Interview" presented by Larry Fry of Eli Lilly 5:30 - 7:30 in the Career Center classroom

October 11th

- Expo Interviews
- Companies will be holding pre-arranged interviews in the SUB