



AmerenUE crews worked on the transformers outside Barnett Hall Tuesday afternoon following a power outage caused by a lightning strike. Daniel Glossenger/Index

# Truman finishes ahead of the field for ACT average

**Truman students have highest ACT scores of Missouri public colleges**

BY BONNIE BIRDELL  
Staff Reporter

Truman has once again distinguished itself from the rest of the state.

In the Aug. 31 almanac edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education, Missouri's statewide average ACT score for the incoming freshman class of 2006 was 21.6.

Truman's average score for that same class was 27.3, according to the Enhanced Missouri Achievement Study.

The EMAS breaks down ACT averages for every public and private baccalaureate and higher degree-granting institution in the state.

In the sector of public schools, Truman ranked No. 1.

"We're at or near the top," said Dave Rector, executive director of institutional research and budgets.

Rector said the University of Missouri-Rolla averaged 27.1, the average closest to Truman's. The University of Missouri-Columbia came in third, averaging a score of 25.3, according to the EMAS.

"We have higher admission standards, and the only other campus that's really like that in the state is Rolla," Rector said.

Truman also received high rankings when compared with private institutions, coming in second only to Washington University, where students averaged 31.6 on the ACT.

However, Rector said the statistics are not comparable due to the fact that many of Wash U's students take the SAT as opposed to the ACT.

"Twenty-seven is kind of our target for an average," Rector said. "The myth that's out there ... is that you have to have a 27 to get in."

University President Barbara Dixon dispelled this rumor and said potential students are not judged on ACT scores alone. She said there is no minimum ACT requirement for Truman.

"GPA and ACT scores are factors we look at strongly, but not the only things we look at," she said.

Dixon said there are many reasons students with high ACT scores are attracted to the University.

"Though it's not an official title, this could be called the honors college of the state of Missouri," she said. "I think students who really like school know that we have the reputation for that."

Dixon said students who are focused on the scholastic portion of college life are more attracted to Truman, despite the lack of urban surroundings and big-name athletics.

"Academically talented students who are really looking for more of a residential college experience are attracted to Truman," she said.

Sophomore Shannon Walter from Springfield said she was attracted to Truman because of its reputation and location.

"I didn't want to go to a big state school," she said. "This was a small, personal campus, and I didn't want to stay near home, but I wanted to stay in Missouri."

Walter said she doesn't think colleges place too much importance on ACT scores, nor does she think they should.

"I don't think that everyone is a very good standardized test person, so it's hard to measure their intelligence and whether they're ready for things based on ACT scores," she said.

As for Truman's ranking, Walter said she wasn't surprised.

"I think it shows that this is a good institution," she said.

"Though it's not an official title, [Truman] could be called the honors college of the state of Missouri. I think students who really like school know that we have the reputation for that."

Barbara Dixon  
University President

# Barnett transformer struck

BY JULIE WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Students and teachers had a little bit of luck in Barnett Hall on Tuesday evening — it's still unclear whether it was good or bad.

All electrical power in the building went out after a transformer was struck by lightning. Physical plant director Karl Schneider said power remained off for about three hours until AmerenUE addressed the problem.

As a result of the outage, a number of night classes and meetings were canceled, giving some students an unexpected break.

Andrea Rinkol, justice systems instructor, normally teaches a 6:30 p.m. introduction to justice systems class in Barnett Hall on Tuesdays that was canceled because of the power outage this week. She said she hung signs on the front doors of Barnett Hall to inform students of the cancellation.

"Because of the electricity, I couldn't e-mail anyone," she said. "I felt bad for people who made the trek to Barnett for no class."

Rinkol said she considered having class anyway but decided against it because it would be difficult for stu-

dents to take notes in the dark. She said that when electricians first showed up to work on the problem, they told her supervisor that power might not be restored for several hours or even by the following day.

Senior Kara King said she came to Barnett Hall to take a test right after the power went out but that it was eventually canceled.

King said the whole experience was interesting. "I haven't experienced a blackout yet at Truman," she said.

Annette Sweet, spokesperson for AmerenUE, said lightning hit either a transformer, which was transferring electricity between two circuits in use at Barnett Hall, or a piece of equipment near it, at about 3:45 p.m. She said someone near Barnett Hall witnessed the lightning strike.

Sweet said the lightning caused relatively minor damage to the wiring between AmerenUE's metering and the transformer. She said AmerenUE technicians fixed the problem even though the company did not own the transformer.

Sweet said that apart from damaging the Barnett Hall transformer, Tuesday's storm blew down a lot of tree limbs in

Novinger, Mo., a city 10 miles west of Kirksville. She said there were scattered outages in Novinger but no other significant problems in the Kirksville area.

"[People in Barnett Hall] were the only ones unlucky enough to get a lightning strike," Sweet said.

Part of the inconvenience caused by the loss of power had to do with the computers in Barnett. Matt Farwell, assistant director of ITS, said that ITS received a phone call and sent a network engineer to Barnett because patch-ups could not be made from off-site.

"We discovered that some of the network equipment didn't start correctly when the power was restored," Farwell said. "If it doesn't start orderly, it won't work correctly sometimes."

Farwell said the engineer shut off the computers, then rebooted everything in the correct order, which restored all the equipment to normal working order.

"Computer equipment is touchy," he said. "We do our best to protect it from power outages. When there's an extended power outage and it loses power, a lot of times that's detrimental."

Farwell said no equipment in Barnett Hall sustained permanent damage from the power outage.

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## Now Hiring

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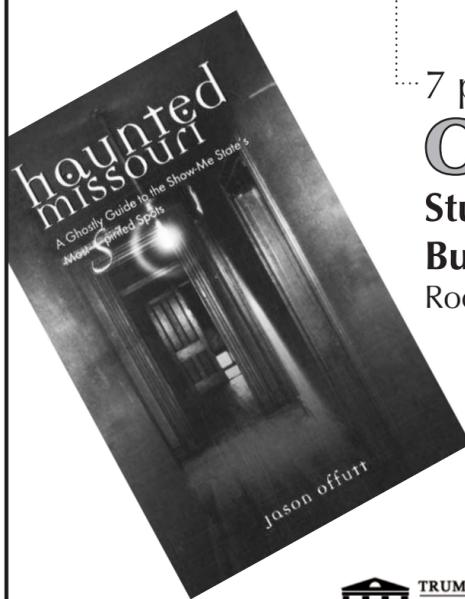
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