

What Kiddoo can do for you

BY LAURA PRATHER
Features Editor

When she isn't preoccupied with classes and meetings, senior Emily Kiddoo can be found cruising around Kirksville in her red '93 Pontiac Sunbird convertible.

Kiddoo is best known on campus as the student representative for the Board of Governors. The board is the highest governing body at Truman and oversees all major decisions and changes that affect the University. She said she was appointed to her position in August 2005 and will step down this year in December when a new Truman student is appointed.

"I'm the student in the room when important decisions are made," Kiddoo said. "I go to events as a member of the board, and sometimes I'm the only student there. So I guess I'm the uber-Truman student. I represent students all the time at everything."

Kiddoo said her position on the board automatically makes her a member of Student Senate. She said she acts as a liaison between the board and senate to let each group know what is going on and who they need to meet with to get many of their projects approved.

With this position, Kiddoo said she is able to be more expressive and less timid.

"It's made me more willing to put my ideas out there and not be afraid to present my perspective, not just at the board or to the board, but in the classroom I'm louder instead of quieter," she said.

In addition to her reputable position on the board, Kiddoo also is a member of College Republicans, Omicron Delta Kappa and the Student Alumni Association. She said her leadership position and political experience with the board in some way led her to each organization.

Amidst her handful of organizations, Kiddoo said that among her favorite things about Truman are the interdisciplinary classes she has taken.

"I think I like classes where you're not just talking about one subject, where you get to bring in the different areas," she said. "I guess I'm a liberal arts student."

Life as a student

Kiddoo qualifies for the category of Truman students who have kept with the same major for their entire undergraduate career. Law was her calling, and political science was her route to get there.

"I always wanted to go to law school, and I think



Chris Waller/Index

Senior Emily Kiddoo balances the many aspects of her Truman life, including homework.

when I was little someone was like, 'You want to major in political science, then,'" she said.

As graduate school quickly approaches, Kiddoo said she is applying to several law schools in the Midwest, but that her dream school is Vanderbilt.

The dual degree in law and education and the possibility of studying abroad in Venice are attracting her to Vanderbilt, she said. The study abroad program is especially enticing because she didn't have that opportunity at Truman because of her position on the board.

Kiddoo said her experience with the Board of Governors has influenced her to pursue educational law and someday work for a university.

"The school is an institution so if something happens, someone can sue the school," she said. "And when that happens, the Board of Governors

gets named in the suit, so it's kind of like the Board of Governors is getting sued because we are responsible for the school. And that freaked me out the first time I noticed that."

"I guess I'm the uber-Truman student. I represent students all the time at everything."

Emily Kiddoo
Senior

Another possibility is working with the Federal Election Commission practicing financial law, Kiddoo said.

"I don't want to go to court all the time, you know, the 'Law and Order' type of thing," she said.

Life as an intern

This summer, Kiddoo spent her time visiting museums, eating at every kind of restaurant imaginable and riding the Metro in Washington D.C. Of course that is all in addition to her full-time, paid internship with the Republican National Committee.

"People get afraid when I say that I'm a Republican and I worked for them, but I'm not a crazy Republican," she said.



With a total of 45 interns at the RNC, Kiddoo said she thinks there actually were more interns than temporary employees.

She said she specialized in the online side of the campaign and spent most of her days in front of a computer screen.

"Everything the party does, it was our job to put it online," Kiddoo said. "I learned how to update the GOP Web site, and I got to monitor blogs, and I got to be on Facebook for my job. I would spend hours a day doing work on Facebook."

Maintaining Web sites, researching information and monitoring profiles was part of her daily routine, Kiddoo said.

"We would look at all the candidates' profiles to see if they had changed anything and make sure they didn't say anything bad about the RNC," she said.

Kiddoo said her job also permitted her to meet several politicians, including Dick Cheney and Karl Rove.

After getting a behind-the-scenes glimpse at what political life is like, Kiddoo said she is on the fence about whether or not she would one day run for a political office.

Life as Professor Trelawney

Reflecting on her summer, Kiddoo said the food was great and the museums were interesting, but her favorite memory is when she dressed up as Professor Trelawney for the release of the final Harry Potter book.

Kiddoo has no problem admitting her loyalty to the series and said she was not embarrassed to be seen in Georgetown dressed as a fictional professor of divination.

"We walked over to the book store in Georgetown, which is a really nice neighborhood ... and everybody dresses really nice there, and I was dressed like Professor Trelawney and all these people were looking at us," she said.

Her summer adventure is one she said she will never forget and one that everyone should experience.

However, Kiddoo said she is happy to be back at Truman for her senior year and has grown more accustomed to walking instead of driving, which she always used to do.

"One of the perks to the Board of Governors is that you can park anywhere on campus, so I don't worry about finding a parking spot ever," she said. "... I used to drive to the square, but now I'm like, it's not very far at all."



la dolce vita

with Sara DeGonia

I know of a place where every week has a three-day weekend.

A place where professors don't assign 64,000-word essays on the merits of the semicolon, where coaches don't believe two-a-days build team unity, and where Greek life is never redundant or nerve-racking but merely a good time.

I know of a place where traveling every weekend is normal, where Nutella can be spread on anything, where wine flows from the sky like rain—Well, almost.

Believe it or not, I live in this place. And you, my friend, can live here, too.

Come to Europe, come to Italy — heck — come to Florence.

Seriously, I double-dog dare you to show up at the door to my fourth-floor apartment and ring the bell wearing the purplest of your Truman Bulldog shirts. I'll take you to the bustling central market where peaches cost 50 cents for three. I'll treat you to my favorite hazelnut and caffè gelato. And, in true Mr. Rogers fashion, I'll excitedly introduce you to each and every one of my neighbors.

I'm not quite up to Jim Carrey par yet.

Italian way of life offers less stress, better community

Never have I greeted the Internet cafe guy shouting, "Buon giorno! And in case I don't see you, buona sera, buona sera and buona notte." (Think "The Truman Show.")

But I have to admit: A familiarity akin to that is, in fact, my ultimate goal come the finale of my semester here in Firenze.

I'd love nothing better than to walk down my street, Via Faenza, to the tune of "Ciao Sara" coming at me from every shop, cafe and gelateria.

Perhaps it's a bit too much to ask for an American who ranks only slightly higher than a weekend tourist. Yet thanks to my favorite wine seller, I'm grasping on to a chance.

The roommates and I wandered into Happy Wine one particular day on our way home from some adventure or another. The owner greeted us grinning and immediately stuck out his hand, introducing himself as "Happy."

"Oh, well, of course you are," I responded dryly. "I'm Silly."

The roommates followed suit.

"Graceful."

"Jolly."

We left without buying anything that first day, but now we go back on a regular basis, and every time we find Happy in his same cheerful mood, bobbing his head along to some American hit from the '90s. He's always delighted to see us, and he always gives us some kind of discount: Two drinks for a euro apiece,

Pringles for half-price or our favorite offer yet, six bottles of wine for about \$25 U.S. A fruitful relationship, to be sure.

I'm making progress with others as well. The fella at the stone pizza oven seems to recognize me. The chap who sells me tomato and mozzarella sandwiches gives me a student discount. The sweet blonde woman at the gelateria smiles knowingly when we come in.

I'm so personally devoted to this woman that I've continued eating her gelato despite the discovery of a cheaper establishment down the block.

Impractical, you say? Then I choose impractical. After all, I'm a legitimate Italian resident now. The least I can do is to get to know some authentic Italians.

Imagine leaving all of your current stress behind and jumping on the study abroad bandwagon. True, I've only been here three weeks, so my verdict isn't complete yet, but keep following my journey, and consider the possibility for yourself.

From what I've learned on the Internet, you're all working your tushies off. My sincerest apologies for your present situation.

But it doesn't have to be that way. It can be the Italian way: La dolce vita. The sweet life.

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day in the

neighborhood.
Won't you be my neighbor?

"I'd love nothing better than to walk down my street ... to the tune of 'Ciao Sara' coming at me from every shop, cafe and gelateria."



Health Talk

with Robert Floyd, D.O.

Northeast Regional Medical Center

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Misconceptions surround development of ulcers

Too much stress and an abundance of spicy food, and you may be headed for an ulcer — or so the thinking used to be. Not long ago, the common belief was that ulcers were a result of lifestyle. Doctors now know that a bacterial infection or medications, not stress or diet, cause most ulcers of the stomach and upper part of the small intestine. Depending on their location, ulcers have different names:

Gastric ulcers, commonly known as peptic ulcers, are the most common ulcers and are found on the inside lining of the stomach.

Duodenal ulcers develop in the first part of the small intestine (duodenum), and

Esophageal ulcers are located in the lower section of the esophagus and are often associated with chronic gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

Ulcers can be quite painful. Burning sensations throughout the chest are the most common symptoms of a peptic ulcer. The pain is caused by an aggravated ulcer coming in contact with stomach acid. The pain typically may:

- Be felt anywhere from the navel to the breastbone,
- Last from a few minutes to many hours,
- Be worse when the stomach is empty,
- Flare up at night,
- Come and go for days or weeks,
- Be relieved by taking an acid-reducing medication.

Factors that contribute to the agitation of peptic ulcers include:

Regular use of pain relievers. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can irritate or inflame the lining of the stomach and small intestine. Non-prescription NSAIDs include Aspirin and Ibuprofen. To help avoid irritation, take NSAIDs with meals.

Smoking: Nicotine in tobacco increases the concentration of stomach acid, increasing the risks of an ulcer.

Alcohol consumption: Excessive alcohol consumption can wear away the lining of the stomach and increase the amount of stomach acid that is produced.

Stress: Although stress does not cause peptic ulcers, it is a contributing factor in delaying the healing process of an ulcer.

If left untreated, peptic ulcers can cause internal bleeding and irritate the wall of the stomach or small intestine, putting you at risk of serious infection. Ulcers can also produce scar tissue that can obstruct the passage of food through the digestive tract, causing weight loss due to vomiting or the feeling of a full stomach.

Because many ulcers stem from bacteria, doctors use two methods for treatment. Doctors must first kill the bacteria and then reduce the level of acid in the digestive system to relieve pain and encourage healing. Accomplishing these two steps requires the use of various medicines.

Ulcers can cause serious damage to the digestive cavity if not taken care of properly. For questions regarding ulcers, contact Dr. Floyd with Academic Medicine at 660-626-2235.



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