

# University confronts class sizes

**Enrollment surge has led to tightly packed classrooms**

BY SARAH SMITH  
Staff Reporter

Many students didn't know they would have to bring their own desks to class to have a place to sit.

The current student count shows enrollment is up and is expected to increase before the final count is released at the end of the week.

Martha Bartter, professor of English, said she had to change rooms because students in her English 330 class did not have enough desks. Before the move, students had to bring chairs in from other classrooms.

"McClain 306 is a very comfortable classroom for 30, it's pushing it to [have] 35, and there are 45 students in the class, so it was an inappropriate selection to start with," Bartter said.

She said she thought the room situation posed a safety threat.

"When you put that many chairs in that room there is no possible way to leave an exit," Bartter said.

Bartter said she copes with large classes by occasionally splitting them into discussion groups. She said the problem with this is that the groups had trouble actually moving their desks into groups because of space constraints.

"The different kinds of constraints on size, I would

think, make it difficult to handle some kind of rigid ratio," Bartter said.

Senior Sam Cummins said he also had to move classrooms this semester. Cummins' mythology class moved from Baldwin 272A down the hall to Baldwin 218.

Cummins said he feels like he knows the instructor more when the class size is small and that it is easier for a student's opinion to be heard.

"I feel like you do have to try a little bit harder to be heard by the teacher," Cummins said.

**"Students who maybe aren't as extroverted or willing to give answers don't have their opinions heard, especially in a discussion class."**

**Sam Cummins**  
Senior

"Dr. Partenheimer wants to [assign] papers," he said. "He feels that's the best way he can educate us in mythology, but he can't because he has too many students."

Cummins said he thinks the ideal class size would range from 15 to 20 students.

In June, Truman's Board of Governors approved a new University Strategic Plan for 2008 through 2010. Dave Rector, director of budgets and institutional research, said one of the goals in the new plan is a 16:1 student-to-faculty ratio. The rationale behind this ratio is to have smaller class sizes, which will differentiate Truman from other large



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

**Students crowd around professor Linda Seidel during her American Dreamers English class in Baldwin 251 on Tuesday. The University currently is working toward a 16:1 student-to-faculty ratio, which would reduce class sizes.**

universities, he said.

To calculate the student-to-teacher ratio, the full-time equivalent students are divided by the full-time equivalent faculty, Rector said. The number of full-time equivalent students is found by converting all part-time students to the equivalent of a full-time student. The same process is done for the faculty.

Rector said a faculty member who works one-fourth full time and one who works three-fourths full time would equal one full-time equivalent staff, and the same for students.

Last year 5,762 students were enrolled, while the full-time equivalent student count was 5,565, Rector said. The University then would need 348 full-time faculty to achieve the 16:1 ratio. Rector said last year there were about 350 faculty, making the ratio a little lower.

A common mistake when viewing the 16:1

ratio is thinking it correlates with class size, Rector said. He said he uses the ratio to look at students and faculty as a whole, and the ratio does not mean class sizes will be 16 students per instructor.

He said it is not unusual for some classes to have to change rooms because of enrollment in that class being higher than projected.

As of Sept. 12, 80 more students were enrolled at Truman than at this time last year, Rector said. The final enrollment figure will be released at the end of the week and is expected to increase as late enrollment is figured in, Rector said.

Melody Chambers, director of admission operations and transfer enrollment, said the freshman class totals 1,411, but until Sept. 21 the official four-week enrollment figures will not be available. Last year at this time there were 1,379 freshman students enrolled, she said.

"I think ideally we would like to be enrolling around 1,500 freshmen," Chambers said.

"In theatre, a lot of our courses, because of what we teach and how we teach it, we have to have small classes," said Ron Rybkowski, theatre department chair.

Although introduction classes are larger, acting classes are capped at 18 students because they require a student-teacher relationship, Rybkowski said. Also, design classes have to be capped at 10 students because there are only 10 drafting tables available.

Two years ago, two professors in the theatre department left, which affected the remaining staff considerably, Rybkowski said.

"Fortunately this year we were able to add Janet [Miller] into the mix, so we are back to our five full-time, yet two of them are temporary," Rybkowski said.

# School eases transition for transfers

BY MARIAH BOHANON  
Staff Reporter

Sophomore Katy Bauschke considered attending Truman her senior year of high school. She had heard about the school from her guidance counselor, and found its opportunities intriguing but didn't believe that it was the right place for her.

Bauschke completed her freshman year at Northern Michigan University and began exploring other colleges during the summer. She said she began to reconsider Truman State after visiting a campus in Iowa where she spotted a girl wearing a Truman T-shirt.

She went to the University Web site, read brochures, contacted an admissions counselor and visited the campus over the summer. Her mind wasn't entirely made up until August, shortly before the fall 2007 semester began.

"That was one of the things that attracted me to Truman, they had rolling admissions so I could still enroll on short notice," Bauschke said.

Many college students face this same scenario of realizing that they are unsatisfied with the school they chose after high school.

The University's Office of Admission offers a wide range of services to help students like Bauschke make an easy transition when enrolling at the University.

Transfer Coordinator Kim Fitzgerald said the University has been focusing on increasing the number of transfer students since 2004. Prior to that year, fewer than 100 transfer students were enrolled. Since admissions counsel-

ors decided to boost efforts to make Truman more visible to those who may be considering transferring schools, the number of transfer students each year has increased.

The Office of Admission is planning to attract even more transfer students this year by implementing several different techniques to make the University more visible.

**"That was one of the things that attracted me to Truman, they had rolling admissions so I could still enroll on short notice."**

**Katy Bauschke**  
Sophomore

Fitzgerald said the University will be advertising this year in community college newspapers for the first time, along with distributing a new brochure aimed directly at transfer students. She also said she and Melody Chambers, co-director of admission, would be meeting with advisers at various community colleges so that they can better inform students about the opportunities available for them at Truman.

Brad Chambers, co-director of admissions, said that beginning in the spring semester, the University will be changing the application requirements for transfer students. He said students with more than 24

hours of transferable college credit will not have to submit their high school transcripts for admission to Truman, whereas in the past all applicants had to do so.

Fitzgerald said she thinks this will help attract transfer students, as it makes the application process easier for those who have already been in college.

She also said this would make the college application process much easier for non-traditional students who may want to come back to college to earn a second degree, or to complete a degree program they may have begun years ago and never finished. About three to five percent of

transfer students at the University for the 2007-2008 school year are non-traditional students, she said.

Fitzgerald said the University may not seem as likely a choice for transfer students because of its location. Most community colleges, such as those in St. Louis or Kansas City, are close to one or more prominent four-year schools.

In order to attract students from colleges in such large metropolitan areas, admission counselors, or "recruiters," travel throughout Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska promoting Truman at various events.

The University also has admission counselors that live in Kansas City, St. Louis and — beginning this year — Chicago. Fitzgerald said she thinks having permanent residents working to promote Truman to high school and college students is very effective in recruiting transfers.

Fitzgerald said that once students are aware of the opportunities available to them at the University, they are eager to enroll. Chambers cited the University's many assets, such as the study abroad program and the importance placed on undergraduate research, as key factors in attracting transfer students.

"In terms of academic quality, we absolutely are on par, if not above, that of other schools," Chambers said.

Fitzgerald said that during the next several years the University hopes to enroll more than 200 transfer students.

In comparing Truman to the college she previously attended, Bauschke said that she feels confident that this is the right place for her and is very satisfied with her decision to transfer.

"I just feel like I was meant to go here," Bauschke said of her transition to the University.

## NEWS | In Brief

### Masten incarcerated in Texas prison

Former mayor Debbie Masten, sentenced to more than five years in prison for arson in August, was committed to a minimum-security women's prison in Bryan, Texas.

On Wednesday, a representative at the facility confirmed her imprisonment there but declined to give an arrival date. Masten had requested to serve her sentence in Texas or Arizona.

Her appeal is pending. According to documents filed Sept. 4 and 7 by a new defense attorney, Brian Millikan, the appeal "is not amenable to settlement."

### USDA announces housing loans

The Missouri branch of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development has announced that \$150 million in guaranteed housing loans has been made in Missouri so far in the 2007 fiscal year. More than \$3 million of that sum has been provided to residents in Adair and surrounding counties.

Through the loan program, USDA Rural Development guarantees repayment once loans are made through lenders.

"We are so fortunate to have several approved guaranteed lenders across Missouri," said Greg Brantum, Missouri state director for USDA Rural Development.

To be eligible for a home loan guarantee, applicants must meet requirements such as having a satisfactory credit history and adequate repayment ability.

The maximum loan amount is determined by the household's income, and no size or cost restrictions exist for the home being financed.

For more information, contact the local USDA Rural Development office.

### Local predator commits to treatment

A Kirksville man convicted of statutory sodomy five years ago has been committed to the state treatment center in Farmington, Mo. Adair County Circuit Judge Kristie J. Swaim signed the judgment and commitment order Tuesday after finding Richard Wheeler, 59, to be a sexually violent predator, according to a press release issued Tuesday.

Wheeler was convicted of statutory sodomy in the first degree in 1997, sexual misconduct in 1996 and sexual abuse in the first degree in 1981.

The office of Attorney General Jay Nixon filed the petition for Wheeler's commitment. Wheeler joins 85 other sexually violent predators in Missouri who are being held in civil commitment.

### TimesSelect service terminated

The New York Times announced Wednesday that it will end its TimesSelect online news service, according to a press release. The service, originally launched in Sept. 2005, became free to anyone with an .edu e-mail account in March 2007 (see Index issue March 22).

According to the release, the newspaper will now offer its Op-Ed and news columns, Times File and News Tracker to the public online, free of charge. The Times archive up to 1987 will also be available online.

TimesSelect was canceled so that more readers — not just subscribers — can access the newspaper, according to the release.

## Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate appointed senior Emily Meyer to chair of the SOCC, senior Jessica Mierkowski to chair of the Parking Appeals Committee, senior Andy Meyer to Legislative Director and senior Suzanne Russell to Athletics Advisory Committee Chair.
- Senate appointed freshman Jessica Catron, Lauren Johnson, junior Kim Burgess and freshman Risa Suzuki as associate senators in the form of a slate.
- Senate appointed senior Garrett Boatwright Residential Housing Association representative.
- Senate discussed the impending appointment of the student representative to the Board of Governors.
- Student passed a money motion for \$20, moved by president junior Matt Szewczyk, to be spent on the Homecoming Alumni Reception.
- Senate discussed revising the money motion for \$600 moved last week for the joint benefit concert between the Student Activities Board and the Student Government.
- Freshman JoEllen Flanagan, junior Walter Stokely and junior Joseph Risch were elected as senators-at-large.
- Freshman Jessica Catron and freshman Heather Talpers were elected as incoming senators.

## DPS | Reports

- 9/15 Jennifer VanDyke was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 9/15 Patrick Schultz was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 9/14 Dustin Brennan was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 9/12 Report of theft from Magruder Hall

 **Northeast  
Regional Medical Center**

## Free Prostate Screening

**Saturday, Sept. 22**  
9 a.m. – Noon

Health and Fitness Center  
Hwy. 63 South – Kirksville

Call **(660) 785-1832** today  
for an appointment.

For questions and information regarding prostate cancer, please visit our website, [www.nermc.com](http://www.nermc.com).

Northeast Regional Medical Center, **Drs. Sam Lee** and **James E. Kelly**, are celebrating Prostate Cancer Awareness Month by providing free prostate screenings for men age 45 and over or men 35+ who have a history of the disease.

If you are experiencing a weak urine stream, discomfort while urinating or other urinary problems, call us for an appointment. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early or go by the Health and Fitness Center prior to the event to pick up or complete paperwork. Enter through the double doors at the South entrance.

Funding for this project was also provided in part by the Missouri Foundation for Health. Missouri Foundation for Health is a philanthropic organization whose vision is to improve the health of the people in its community.

# Fall Special

**\$20  
days!**

**Monday through Friday**  
includes green fees and cart for 18 holes

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Golf Course**

For more information  
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