

Farm projects continue

Ag science majors work on everything from soybeans to artificial insemination

BY WILL HOLLEMAN
Features Reporter

If they wanted to, agricultural science majors could live on a diet of wine, apples and cheeseburgers.

This is not the case, but a vineyard, a 40-tree apple orchard and about 50 Gelbvieh cows are just a few of the projects that agricultural science majors are working on at the University Farm.

Students might have noticed the enormous cornfield that stands behind the antique wood fence encompassing the farm. Tom Marshall, professor of animal genetics, said the patch of corn is an on-going breeding program that Mark Campbell, professor of the crops science program, is working on to develop a special, high-amylose corn.

Marshall, who specializes in animal breeding and genetics, said about 40 pigs also used to be kept on the farm but that they were getting to be too messy.

"We had some pigs on the farm, but they were tearing up the ground too bad," he said. "We'd have to get some concrete for them if we ever going to have them again."

Truman bought the farm in 1980 when it was still known as Northeast Missouri State University, according

to the University Web site. The college originally bought 132 acres of private land from the Denslow family to help agricultural science majors learn how to study field crops and livestock. In 1999, the University received an additional 268 acres from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

About 80 acres of the farm are devoted to crop land, according to the University Web site. The University originally grew forages, soybeans and corn, which were used in studies and as food for the cattle and horses that are housed at the farm. Today, the farm produces soybeans, corn and hay.

The remaining acres are located behind the farm and are set aside for the cattle and horses and also serves as the practice grounds for the equestrian team.

Junior Justin Nash said the 37 horses at the farm serve as equestrian team equipment and moonlight as artificial insemination projects for Pre-Veterinary students. Nash said he spends much of his free time at the farm working with cattle and horses. Like many, Nash said he cherishes his time at the farm.

"It's very tranquil," he said. "If you're looking for a place to get away, that's it".

For as relaxing as Nash said the farm can be, he also said he is excited about the constant variety of projects that can be at the farm at any given time.

"There's something going on constantly, whether it's studying the lactat-

ing patterns of cows or artificial insemination," Nash said.

Farm director Bill Kuntz said that from time to time they have various animals out at the farm, including sheep and goats. Kuntz has been the director for seven years and before that worked as a technician for the biology department.

"I did it to get back outdoors," he said.

Kuntz said he works extremely hard to keep up the farm and estimates that he logs about 60 hours a week there.

Truman alumnus Dan Bauer said he gained much experience at the farm. Bauer is a foreman at a sod company and said his experiences at the farm were extremely helpful.

"During my senior capstone class I probably went out there at least an hour every day to check on the chickens [used in a class project]," Bauer said.

Bauer said he worked at the farm, trimming the apples trees and planting grapes in the vineyard when he wasn't busy learning about the different types of grass or studying soil samples.

Not only does the farm work in conjunction with the University, but Kuntz also said it is good for the community.

In the past he has set up events with the adjacent juvenile detention center and said he normally has hundreds of children come out for pumpkin-picking and hay rides every year. This year, a frost nixed the pumpkin-picking plans, but there's always next year, Kuntz said.



Jason Williams/Index

The University Farm houses many animals, including this horse.

Truman alumnus makes business out of baseball art

BY KARA SAVAGE
Features Reporter

Some students might believe that knowledge gained at Truman soon will be forgotten, but Nathan Rueckert learned this is not true.

Rueckert graduated from Truman in May 2003 with a bachelor of science in accounting. Rueckert said he works as an accountant at AG Edwards and owns his own business called Baseball Seams Company.

He designs and sells a variety of items, specifically bracelets, key chains and original artwork, Rueckert said. All of these pieces are made from old baseballs, he said.

"The original artwork is hand-crafted, and each one is made out of three cut-up baseballs, and the blue part is a piece of blue mesh from a baseball jersey," Rueckert said.

The idea began when Rueckert saw his roommate wearing a bracelet made from baseball seams and thought he could de-



Mark Hardy/Index

Rueckert's American flag artwork is displayed at Beards Gallery.

sign an American flag with the same concept, he said. He said he also thought of this idea after Sept. 11 because there were flags everywhere, and everyone was being patriotic.

Rueckert said he played baseball at Truman for three years and has always had a passion for baseball as well as America.

"I combined the love for baseball and the love for Amer-

ica in a single image by making a flag out of cut-up baseballs," Rueckert said.

He said he started Baseball Seams Co. in the winter of his junior year at Truman. First, he said he had to register as a sole proprietorship in the state of Missouri and obtain copyrights on all of his work. The Small Development Center at Truman was one resource that assisted him in gaining these

requirements, Rueckert said.

To start his business, he had to take out a loan from his parents to order different materials to start his inventory, he said. Rueckert said he was able to pay them back within two months because there was demand for his products.

He said he learned a lesson in supply and demand because he started selling the original artwork at \$25 each but quickly learned that many people would buy them at a higher price. He kept increasing his price, and currently the original artwork sells for \$200, Rueckert said.

"I was taken back by how quickly people wanted to buy the original artwork," Rueckert said.

Rueckert said he sells on average one to two of the artworks a week. He said he has found that people buy these items primarily to give as gifts. During holidays such as Father's Day and Christmas he said he might receive anywhere from 40 to 80 orders a week.

He does everything himself, from marketing to product devel-

oping, but on occasion, he will have friends help cut out baseballs or take orders during the busy seasons, he said.

"Right now I am the one-stop shop," Rueckert said.

To promote his work he designed his own Web site, www.baseballseamsco.com, which he developed through Front Page, a Web development program, Rueckert said. This was a skill he said he learned at Truman. He also has gone to conventions and trade shows trying to promote his different products, especially his original artwork, Rueckert said.

Within a year of opening Baseball Seams Co., the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum started to carry the print and T-shirt design, Rueckert said. The old Busch Stadium in St. Louis also used to carry his products in the Cardinals team store, he said.

Beards Gallery in Kirksville is another location that sells the original artwork and print, said Brad Beard, the vice president of Beards Gallery. Beard has been

working at Beards Gallery for 45 years and said it has been selling Rueckert's work for four years.

Currently Beards Gallery has one or two of the pieces of artwork, and they sell for about \$170, Beard said. He said once the gallery runs out of the artwork, he will order more because they are something no one else has ever designed.

"It is a unique piece of artwork and idea, especially since he graduated from Truman," Beard said.

Professor of accounting Debra Kerby said she has purchased one of Rueckert's prints. Kerby said she was one of Rueckert's professors as well as his adviser. She said Rueckert learned a great deal because he had to set up all of the accounting systems as well as receive the appropriate license.

"It is an interesting concept," she said. "I think it really shows some creativity on his part, and he thought to utilize some of the knowledge he had been gaining in the classroom to apply it to a real-life business."

ECareer 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/CareerExpo/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