

Two generations see University change

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Index Staff

Most students come to college to escape their family, but junior Kyle Helms came to college and grew closer to his.

Kyle transferred to Truman his sophomore year, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Jesse, and mother, Carolyn.

Kyle lived in Centennial Hall 305 just a couple doors down from where Jesse lived his sophomore year. Jesse also was assigned to live in Ryle Hall 555 his freshman year which just so happened to be the exact same room his mother lived in 36 years earlier.

"They didn't realize it immediately, but then when we started moving in, my mom was like, 'This room looks familiar,'" Kyle said. "... It was a pretty big coincidence that they [went] to the same college and ended up in the same dorm room."

Carolyn said Jesse didn't end up living there though because it was a four-person room and she didn't want Jesse to be crammed in there like she was.

Kyle said it is unique that all three of them went to the same college because many families don't have that experience. Carolyn said she thinks that her having gone to school here, had no bearing on Kyle and Jesse's decisions to come to Truman.

One main difference that appears only on their transcripts and résumés is the name of the college. In 1974, when Carolyn graduated, the school was called Northeast Missouri State University. Kyle will graduate from Truman State University, after a 1996 name change.

Today, many students see Kirksville as a small town, but in 1970 the town was even smaller. Popular student attractions such as Downtown Cinema 8, Pancake City and Walmart were nowhere to be found.

Kyle's mom Carolyn said the main attraction in the '70s was Thousand Hills State Park. She said students visited the lake because it provided all types of activities.

Student life on campus also varied a lot for Kyle and his mom. Kyle said he spends most of his free time playing intramural soccer, participating in his fraternity's activities or playing video games.

Carolyn said her main pastimes in college were attending football games and protesting. She said she probably would have been involved in more areas, but there simply wasn't much to do.

"I think the school is realizing that they have to play a part in [the students' lives] and not just take their money but really be involved in some things," she said.

Carolyn said that when she went to school here very few students could afford to have their own TVs, phones or typewriters. However, most of the hall lounges had TVs for students to watch, phones for students to use and the library provided typewriters, she said.

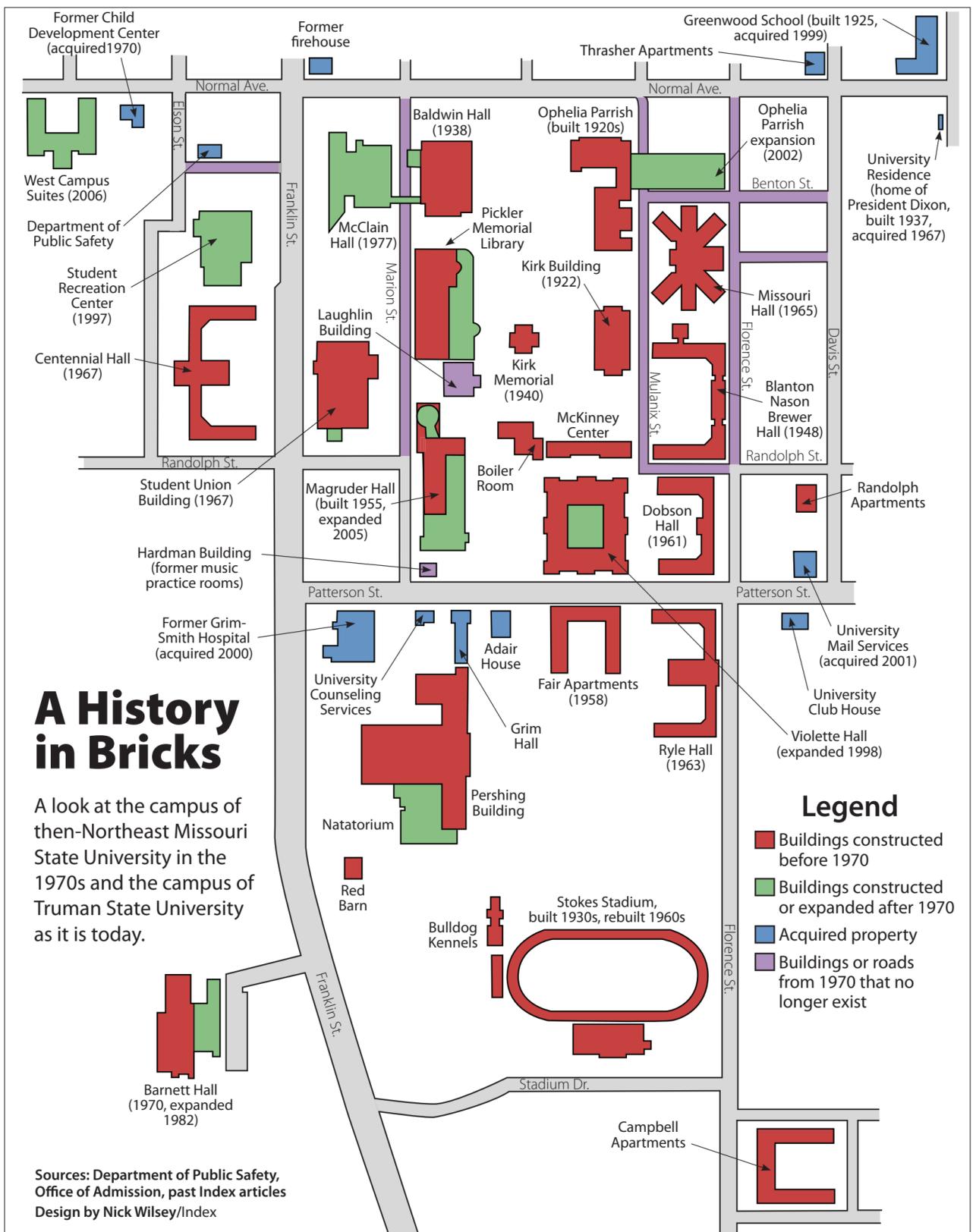
Kyle, who has grown up with TVs and computers, said school would be different if students didn't have quick access to them.

"I think that would make doing an assignment or a paper a lot harder because you wouldn't have the Internet for sources, or if you had to type on a typewriter, that is more time-consuming," he said.

Both Kyle and his mom said they had jobs while in school. Kyle said he puts in about 20 hours of work per week at the Kirksville Country Club and about four hours per week at the Pershing equipment room for his scholarship job.

Carolyn said she worked at Dairy Queen and also was a cook for the agricultural science fraternity her senior year.

"I didn't receive a scholarship," she said. "Parents didn't really do what they do now. If you wanted to go to school, you paid for it."



A History in Bricks

A look at the campus of then-Northeast Missouri State University in the 1970s and the campus of Truman State University as it is today.

Sources: Department of Public Safety, Office of Admission, past Index articles
Design by Nick Wilsey/Index

Professor of chemistry Roger Festa has worked at the University for 25 years. He said changes between now and then include physical changes around campus.

"In the chemistry office there used to be old photographs of what campus looked like in the '60s," Festa said. "Marion [Street] used to go all the way through campus, where the circular fountain is, and ended at Patterson [Street]."

Until 1982, Ophelia Parrish used to educate Kirksville's junior high students, he said. The school was located on campus because it was still considered to be a teachers college and teachers needed to learn by teaching, he said.

Festa said the mall outside the Student Union Building, which was built in 1967, used to be decorated with lamps and benches. With the recent renovations of the SUB, the benches were removed and will be saved and possibly be put back some day, he said.

"I used to sit on the bench in the

nice weather and read newspapers and magazines," Festa said. "I could look to my right and see up into my office."

The Lounge in the SUB also has changed. Festa said it was originally designed as a ball room and underneath the carpet is parquet flooring.

Truman always has been regarded as a highly selective school, regardless of what it was called. The school used to offer more than 100 majors, but now students only have a list of 37. Majors like family consumer science, which is what Carolyn got her degree in, no longer exist.

Despite all the changes, Truman still attracts students for what it now has to offer.

Kyle said it is fun to hear all the different stories his mom tells him about when she went to school here. He said they are interesting because Kirksville has evolved so much in the last 36 years.

"Even though we went to the same school, I think we're getting a different experience," he said.

NOW and THEN

Truman State University
circa 2007

- \$6,210 for in-state tuition
- \$10,820 for out-of-state tuition
- \$5,815 for room and board**
- 97 percent of students received financial aid
- campus size is 172.7 acres
- Truman offers 37 majors***
- 85 percent of faculty have terminal degree
- 42 countries represented in student body
- \$2.71 per gallon of gasoline

* Inflation not accounted for, figures in 1972 dollars.
** Dobson and Ryle Halls
*** not including "undeclared"
Sources: Pickler Memorial Library, Campus planner Mark Schultz, Admissions Office Web site, www.thepeoplehistory.com

Northeast Missouri State University
circa 1972

- \$280 for in-state tuition*
- \$760 for out-of-state tuition
- \$814 for room and board
- about 45 percent of students received financial aid
- campus size is about 90 acres
- NMSU offered about 100 majors
- less than 50 percent of faculty have doctoral degree
- 28 countries represented in student body
- 55 cents per gallon of gasoline

File photo
Reporting by Ally Summers and Jessie Gasch
Design by Jessie Gasch/Index

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