



Mark Hardy/Index

Truman State University bookstore, now located in the old fire station on Franklin Street, sits directly across the street from Patty's University Bookstore.

Bookstore leaves home base

Truman Bookstore moves off campus as SUB undergoes construction

BY SARAH SMITH
Staff Reporter

While many students packed up their cars and headed home last May for summer vacation, the Truman State University bookstore was busy moving, too.

Truman Bookstore manager Steve Pennington said Barnes & Noble Booksellers and Truman made the joint decision to move to the old fire station on Franklin Street because of construction in the Student Union Building. Because the old fire station had no other occupants and could hold the entire store, it became the temporary location. He said Truman has had a contract with Barnes & Noble for the past 21 years. Last year the contract was redone, as happens every five years.

Pennington said the bookstore was closed for only two days during the move. If the bookstore had stayed in the SUB throughout the construction process, it might have had to close for a couple of weeks during the summer.

"[The move] went pretty smooth," Pennington said.

Being off campus and across from Patty's University Bookstore makes it convenient for students to stop in at both stores. For the Truman bookstore, however, there are some disadvantages.

"I do miss the traffic in the Stu-

dent Union," Pennington said. "This summer, especially, it was kind of slow down here."

The bookstore also does not have air conditioning in the garage portion of the store where all the books are shelved and sold. Pennington said it was hard to say whether this factor has affected sales.

"It's affected people browsing, I think, so it could have affected sales, but overall I don't think it has," Pennington said. "People don't seem to like to linger when it's hot."

Patty Bolz, owner of Patty's University Bookstore, declined to comment.

Kris Hurley, the Truman bookstore assistant manager, said a small air conditioning unit was put in the garage to control the heat during the summer.

"I don't think it's really been too bad," Hurley said. "We open up the doors now. I really don't think it was a problem at all."

The last day the bookstore will be open before the move back to the SUB is Sept. 22, and if all goes according to plan, it will reopen in the SUB on Sept. 26.

Ralph Cupelli, the assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, also acts as the bookstore coordinator. Cupelli said they scheduled the opening for Sept. 26 so the bookstore would be back in the SUB and ready for family weekend, which is a big event for them.

"[The move] went real well," Cupelli said. "We had a few minor

things. ... We had to get some wiring put in and telephones. ... but Barnes & Noble had a design team that figured out what needed to be done."

Cupelli said the University was in charge of the wiring and telephones while Barnes & Noble decided the layout and arrangement of shelves.

Cupelli also said that once they knew an elevator shaft in the SUB would be going in at the front of the store, along with a new sprinkler system and tiles, they decided the bookstore would move.

"It was decided it would be a lot simpler to move the bookstore to the fire station temporarily, so they could do all the construction in there without having to worry about moving books around, and so we thought we would have better service by having the bookstore in the old fire station building," Cupelli said.

Not having air conditioning in the garage was something the University brought up for discussion, Cupelli said, but he thought the heat would be less of an inconvenience than trying to work around construction in the building.

Senior Julia Werner said the lack of air conditioning would not likely affect her shopping at the Truman bookstore, but location would.

"I'm in the SUB sometimes, so I'd be more likely just to stop by to see what they had as opposed to going directly there for something because I usually don't go to the bookstore ... unless I'm buying books," Werner said.

Alumnus establishes endowed professorship

BY KYLE MAGEE
Staff Reporter

A respected Parkinson's disease researcher at the University of Kentucky has established a professorship at Truman in memory of his late wife.

Greg Gerhardt, a 1979 Truman graduate, pledged \$1 million in a commitment to fund the University's first-ever endowed professorship, the Greg A. and Paulette Danielle-Gerhardt Endowed Professorship in Science. Gerhardt established the professorship in memory of his late wife, who passed away in May 2007.

"I hope this can be used as what's called a domino-effect to remind people this is how we take, in my opinion, a wonderful college like Truman that offers a spectacular forum for many people and make it even better," Gerhardt said.

The endowment functions as a faculty recruitment mechanism for the biology and chemistry departments. Acting as a more efficient system for recruitment maintenance provides focused support of the professorships present in the fields of professional, teaching and research activity, according to Truman Today.

"I have great memories of Truman," Gerhardt said. "It still has that quaintness. The architecture on the buildings has been maintained to keep it a very pretty campus."

Honoring Gerhardt's experience with anatomy and neurobiology, the professorship gives preference to persons with notable background and research experience in the field of neuroscience, according to Truman Today.

University President Barbara Dixon said she was thrilled to hear about the endowment when Mark Gambaiana, vice president for university advancement, first told her. She said she believes this type of donation says a lot about the dedication of the University's alumni and hopes this is the first of many more to come.

"This is such a good thing for Truman," Dixon said. "I think certainly the University is of a quality that it deserves to have some things that help us support faculty in a far more substantial way than we normally can."

While still in its early stages on the long road to fulfillment, Gerhardt's endowment serves as the primary step for the planned gift's long-term basis. This means that the value of the donation upon comple-

tion peaks from its original measure, ensuring a sizable fund directed to the science department.

Given the nature of a typical professorship, the University does not receive the endowment sum until Gerhardt passes away, Dixon said.

Part of the larger University capital campaign, Gerhardt's endowment marks a formal donation collected along with the money payments and delayed pledges totaling \$5.3 million thus far, according to Truman Today.

"We can maximize this [opportunity] by publicizing it and also recognizing that these things really do make up a huge margin of difference for the excellence that Truman proposes to have," Dixon said.

Board of Governors student representative Emily Kiddoo said she thinks the University now has an effective base to work with that makes a positive difference in the community.

"I think the whole capital campaign, just everything about it, is really exciting because it is making the school better, and it is something we can all be proud of and appreciate and take part in," Kiddoo said.

Upon receiving a tremendous amount of feedback from the University, some of Gerhardt's old professors commended his efforts in moving the endowment forward, he said.

"I think people are more willing to do things once someone else has already done them," Kiddoo said.

Truman's larger community benefits greatly from the intentions of such a donation, especially regarding individual department effort to advertise Truman's reputation, Dixon said.

"Usually these things are honors," Dixon said. "People are selected because they have already demonstrated that they have a high level of quality work that they have been producing, and this is like both a reward and then an obligation to fulfill to keep the good work going."

Gerhardt's extensive background includes a 25-year commitment to studying Parkinson's disease while directing the University of Kentucky's Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Disease Research Center.

"Awareness to Parkinson's disease is pretty straightforward," Gerhardt said. "Actually, this is a great time as the information that's out there and available very easily to the public, as well as to patients."

In the hopes of creating similar advantages for other academic divisions, the Office of Advancement coordinates opportunities in fundraising and alumni support.

"This is such a good thing for Truman."

Barbara Dixon
University President

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Meeting: Kirksville Church of Christ welcomes you. Sun. 10 a.m. College Class taught by Dan Green.

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For rides, call 627-4003.
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Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous: Watch *One Another Christianity*, KYOU-Fox TV, Campus 10, Cablecom 8, Ant. 34, Sun. @ 8:30 a.m. Also *Ekklesia A Cappella Hour*, KHGN 90.7 FM, Sun. @ 4:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous: Can We Know God? "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3
Lake Road Chapel 22963 Potter Trail Sun. 10 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m. lakeroad-chapel.org. Call 660-349-0766

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