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Kirksville's Salvation Army moved to a new location on Baltimore Street. The new store is twice as large and all on one level, which makes it more handicap accessible.

Salvation Army relocates

BY KELLY KIESEL
Staff Reporter

Salvation Army customers now are greeted with more space and parking thanks to the organization's move to 420 S. Baltimore in the Lincoln Square complex Feb. 27. The Salvation Army called N. Franklin Street home for more than 15 years.

Corps officer Major William Hogg, Kirksville's Salvation Army manager, said they were happy to find a location with one level. The previous building had four levels, and its new location has double the retail space and double the sorting and donation storage area. There also is increased parking, including additional handicap parking spots, and the store itself is handicap accessible. Before Salvation Army claimed the building for its operations, it housed the Dollar Junction.

Hogg said the issues with the old location included high utility bills from keeping the four-level building heated. Space problems also were an issue because donated items had to be brought up a level to sell and up an additional level for storage.

To move to the current store, Hogg and workers rented a truck and used their own vehicles. Hogg said he estimated the cost of moving to be less than \$200.

"Right now, it is still a work in progress," Hogg said. "We are still trying to figure out what the best layout is."

With relocation, the drop-off policies will stay the same. There will be a drop-off spot in the back of the store during regular business hours. The front lobby will be opened after business hours for people to drop off items.

Hogg said it was a good move for the store and that he wants people to come and check out the new location.

Store manager Connie Maxey helped the store get settled.

"Our sales have attracted customers, and we have already been wiped out," Maxey said. "With the economy right now, people can get things they need for a good price."

The store also has been using volunteers, including members of Truman's Blue Key organization, to get the store up and running again.

Freshman Katrina Godfrey said she enjoys thrift store shopping and visited the Salvation Army a couple of times during the past few months. Godfrey has not visited the new location yet but said she thinks it will be a big improvement and is excited to shop.

"I can see why they moved locations," Godfrey said. "It is on one of the main roads, and is going to be better for everyone."

Missouri senate cracks down on diploma mills

BY ANDY MOORE
Staff Reporter

When students graduate, they hope their diploma, and all the hard work and loan money it represents, will pay off with a good job. Sometimes, however, that dream job has already been filled by someone with a phony degree.

State Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Jackson, proposed a bill after the Missouri Department of Higher Education received reports of false degrees being used to gain employment at universities in Missouri, including Lindenwood and Missouri State University-Columbia.

Senate Bill 182 would make it illegal for someone to use a "false or misleading" degree to obtain employment or college admission in Missouri. If enacted, violating this provision will be a Class C misdemeanor regardless of whether the institution is located in Missouri.

"False or misleading" degrees can include both forged diplomas and those from diploma mills. A diploma mill is an unaccredited online university that requires minimal coursework and sells degrees based on life experiences.

Todd Scott, chief of staff and legal adviser to Sen. Bartle, said the bill will make it a crime for people to misrepresent themselves by claiming to have earned a degree.

Scott said the bill intends to protect legitimate degrees earned at four-year colleges from being undermined by people who buy them from the Internet and thus have equal footing through false pretenses.

"In one sense, this is designed to protect the investment that students ... have made by actually going and doing the hard work and really earning a degree," Scott said. "[It will] keep that from being watered down by a lot of con men selling and buying and dealing degrees that are not legitimate."

A graduate from Missouri State recently submitted a doctorate degree in Interdisciplinary Humanities to a university in Cleveland, Ohio, but whoever forged this document unfortunately had misspelled the word "interdisciplinary." This phony degree was passed on to Kathy Love, public information officer for the MDHE, and she taped it to her office door.

Love said someone with fraudulent qualifications is cause for concern when people such as medical doctors require advanced training.

"Anyone who has obtained a valid degree has worked very hard. They've taken their classes, they've written their papers [and] they've devoted four to eight years of their lives to becoming qualified for their profession that they're pursuing," she said.

Diploma mills are unaccredited online universities that require minimal coursework and sell degrees based on life experiences.

"So any time that a phony degree is presented and honored as a qualification, it devalues those things that we've worked so hard to attain."

She said tough economic times might encourage people to try to find employment any way they can.

The number of diploma mills was about two million in 2005, according to federal prosecutors, she said, and the numbers are increasing. Selling about 100,000 to 200,000 degrees per year, a diploma mill can make millions, she said.

A diploma mill based in Colbert, Wash., and known as St. Regis University earned more than \$7 million during its nearly 10-year run. The owners were convicted of mail and wire fraud in 2008 after creating 121 fake universities and also producing counterfeit degrees and then distributed more than 10,000 degrees to 131 countries, according to the New York Times.

The Associated Press gave a list of signs that a college might be a diploma mill. These include little or no coursework, a name similar to another institution (ex. Harry Truman University) or a tuition cost per degree rather than per credit hour. Love said she noticed that another sign of a diploma mill includes misspellings, such as the word "interdisciplinary."

Many other states, such as Illinois, Indiana and Texas, have outlawed diploma mills. In Washington the penalty for promoting an unaccredited degree could lead to five years in prison and a hefty fine.

State Sen. Rita Heard Days, D-St. Louis, a member of the Education Committee, said the bill is relatively new and is in the beginning stages.

"In the age of technology ... it's quite easy to duplicate one of these and use them to get a job or to attend a school," Days said. "I think the students that go to school and that go to classes struggle to make the grades, and I think it's disingenuous for someone to come with a diploma that looks just like theirs and they just essentially bought it. Students who do the right thing should be offended."

Senate to increase funding for study abroad

The Simon Act would increase the number of American students studying abroad from 250,000 to 1,000,000 within 10 years.

BY DANA BRUXVOORT
Staff Reporter

During the summer of 2007, senior Emily Bevington and 20 other Truman students climbed the largest hill in Corinth, Greece, to stand at the highest point of the city amid the remains of its most historic temple.

"I wanted to go somewhere a little less talked about with study abroad but that obviously has a lot of history," Bevington said. "Historically, it was a really fascinating place to be."

During her three-week tour of Greece, Bevington was able to visit places most people only have read about in books.

"I think I have a greater understanding of Greece's history and how it fits into the rest of the puzzle of Europe," she said. "My experience in Greece was better than I could've ever imagined it could've been."

The U.S. Senate introduced a new bill last week that seeks to make more experiences like Bevington's possible. The Senator Paul

Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act would quadruple the number of American college students studying abroad within 10 years.

The goal of the Simon Act is to increase global awareness and international understanding by sending more students to study in foreign countries.

"[The late] Senator Paul Simon had a vision to strengthen the role of the U.S. as a world leader by investing in the education of our young people," said Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., who introduced the legislation along with Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss.

About 1 percent of undergraduates study abroad, according to a press release from Wicker's office. This act would increase the number from 250,000 students to one million within 10 years.

"The goal of the [Simon Act] is to make study abroad in high-quality programs in diverse locations around the world the routine rather than the exception for American college students," according to the press release.

The Act aims to provide means

for underrepresented students, such as low-income or minority students, to study abroad.

Another goal of the Act is to encourage American students to study in nontraditional countries.

According to a press release from NAFSA: Association of International Educators, studying in nontraditional countries will become more important because 95 percent of population growth in the next five years will occur in countries outside of Europe.

The Simon Act would increase U.S. competitiveness in the global economy, according to the press release. It would provide the means for American students to gain understanding of global cultures and issues while also improving their foreign language proficiency.

"This legislation is mission-critical to America's efforts to secure its economic future and launch a new era in our country's global engagement," said Marlene M. Johnson, Executive Director and CEO of NAFSA.

The Simon Act would provide \$80 million in grants for individual students, colleges and universities and nongovernmental institutions that provide study abroad opportunities.

Durbin has introduced this legislation twice before, and it has been met with strong bipartisan support

said Patrick Lecaque, Director of the Center for International Education at Truman. Budgetary concerns have prevented the Act from reaching the floor in the past.

Lecaque said he hopes money from the Simon Act will benefit Truman students, but Congress still needs to work out the financial details.

"Nothing is really clear at this point on how the money would be distributed," he said.

Lecaque said the Simon Act funds wouldn't replace existing financial aid programs but would supplement them.

He agreed with the Act's emphasis on study in diverse locations, although he said this shouldn't prevent students from going to more traditional destinations. He said the most popular study abroad locations are the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France. Unique places where Truman students have studied include Bulgaria, Ghana, China, India, Morocco and the Philippines.

Lecaque said Truman is among the top 20 public universities in the U.S. that send students abroad.

Of students who graduated in May 2008, more than 25 percent studied abroad. This is well above the national average of 1.36 percent and the Missouri average of 1.24 percent reported by NAFSA.

He said Truman's study abroad program has received national recognition as one of the only public universities that offers high-quality study abroad programs usually only found at private institutions.

"There's a sizeable number of students who actually currently come to Truman because we offer so many study abroad programs," Lecaque said.

Senior Grant Berry has studied abroad in Costa Rica and Spain. Studying abroad allowed him to experience different cultures and increase his foreign language proficiency, he said.

"I gained a greater appreciation and knowledge of Spanish culture, a greater understanding of just overall European culture," Berry said. "[Before], I didn't really know a lot about what was going on in Europe, and now I feel like I'm much more connected to that entire continent."

He said he encourages all students to study abroad or immerse themselves in a different culture because it will give them a new outlook and a greater understanding of global culture.

"It gives you a much broader perspective of what's going on in the world around you," Berry said. "And it helps you be able to deal with situations with much more well-rounded sense. So I think it's extremely, extremely important."

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1. Summer in the 'Ville

Classes have been reduced to \$229 per credit hour (MO residents) and \$400.50 (out-of-state).

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from other than the 'Ville
Take online undergraduate courses at these reduced rates.

Details on the new discounted summer fees are in the Summer Schedule of Classes and on the Truman website at: http://www.truman.edu/Include/Academics/Summer09_schedule.pdf

This offer applies only to undergraduate courses.

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Due to midterm break, tickets for Truman students, faculty and staff will be available starting March 3. Free tickets for Truman students with a Truman ID will be available in the Student Activities Board Office. Free tickets for faculty and staff with a Truman ID will be available at the information desk. Both are located in the Student Union Building.

General Admission tickets will be available starting March 10. Tickets may be purchased at Edna Campbell's on the Kirksville Square and at the Truman Cashier Window in McClain Hall.

For more information, call 785.4016 or visit the Lyceum website at <http://lyceum.truman.edu>.