

New position created for SUB programs

Coordinator set to organize ice rink in Georgian Room

BY MARK HARDY
Staff Reporter

Many students might not be aware that renovations in the Student Union Building have been completed ahead of schedule. Thus, it is the job of new Programs Coordinator Damon Ferlazzo to spread knowledge of the new facilities and help students who wish to utilize the new rooms plan events.

"The focus is to get students what they want," Ferlazzo said.

Ferlazzo helps students and other groups host activities in the SUB. Students with ideas for activities can meet with him and go through the necessary planning to make programs become realities.

"I've been meeting with a lot of different student groups to inform them I'm here to help," Ferlazzo said. "We're spending this money that everyone's contributed, and we want to make sure everyone's interests are represented."

Ferlazzo said his primary focus is student-created programming. In order to spread awareness of this, he has organized events such as last Tuesday's Open House. This event included live performances from student musicians, free food and a contest to give the room formerly known as the Quiet Lounge a new nickname. Future plans include an egg drop contest, paper airplane contest and even a synthetic ice skating rink in the Georgian Room.

"We want to get as many people in here as possible," Ferlazzo said. "We want to make sure students are using the new spaces. ... This is supposed to be the social place on campus."

A major change for many students is the elimination of the Quiet Lounge. Now simply a lounge, the room is available for people to eat, study or talk.

"It was an enormous space, but people weren't utilizing it," Ferlazzo said. "The library seemed to be the place where socializing was occurring, and the Quiet Lounge was where people studied, and that wasn't working out."

While the lounge and other spaces in the SUB are open for reservations, the rooms also will be open to the public. Students interested in scheduling events in the SUB should speak with Ferlazzo.

For junior Kate Ebmeyer, the new appearance of the SUB isn't necessarily better.

"I'm likely to stop in here to talk because it's a good central location, now that it's reopened," she said.

Ebmeyer also noted the confusion of many students who still treated the room as the Quiet Lounge it used to be. On both Monday and Tuesday, the area near Mainstreet Market contained students conversing and eating while the area separated by the staircase mainly was occupied by students studying quietly. She said another problem for her was the décor.

"They should put the pictures of the presidents back in here or some artwork on the wall," she said. "The architecture is very beautiful, but no one notices unless there's something to draw your eyes to it."

Junior Megan Wehrman said

"We want to make sure students are using the new spaces ... this is supposed to be a social place on campus."

Damon Ferlazzo
Programs Coordinator



Juniors Megan Wehrman and Kate Ebmeyer talk in the Student Union Building lounge Tuesday afternoon. The former Quiet Lounge, now nicknamed "The Hub," is now open for eating and socializing after reopening ahead of schedule.

she thinks the Quiet Lounge filled a different role for students.

"For me the library has always had a negative connotation, like a place for hard work," Wehrman said. "This had a different feel."

Wehrman also said she had some issues with the décor of the room.

"I remember they had swatches of colored fabric to choose from in the SUB, but I don't remember a great many people caring," she said.

The colors of the new lounge are off-white walls, a light, patterned carpet and mostly purple and black furniture with the exception of

six light green chairs.

"It looks like there are 15 different purple colors in here," she said. "Maybe if they had just chosen one or two to go with, it would have been more successful."

Wehrman said she would be unlikely to attend some of the proposed activities to take

place in the SUB this fall.

She said she will use the room to talk between classes but is not happy with the layout or decorations.

"I'm a little turned off by their blatant attempts to modernize," Wehrman said. "... It's like a Starbucks attempt gone terribly wrong."

Call center considering Kirksville location

BY SARAH SCOTT
Staff Reporter

An incoming call center is considering Kirksville for its new location.

Phil Tate, director of job creation for Kirksville Regional Economic Development, said the company has asked not to have its name released yet.

Tate said the company is not an outbound call center, but an inbound call center.

"Some would call it a call center, some would call it a fulfillment center," Tate said.

He said the distinction between a call center and a fulfillment center is that a fulfillment center receives calls and does not make calls.

Tate said an outbound call center uses automatic dialers, does surveys and makes scripts. He said that at a fulfillment center, workers may take orders for items inventoried in a warehouse or answer questions about products.

"There's a much higher degree of training, and, quite frankly, it's a much more interesting job than an outbound call center," Tate said.

He said many outbound call centers offer part-time working positions, but this company will offer full-time positions.

"These jobs ... are extremely attractive because they have an outstanding benefit package," Tate said. "I think people would commute and come to Kirksville for these jobs."

Jobs with this company, which potentially could hire as many as 200 employees, would offer flex time, paid holidays, health care coverage that includes dental and vision and a 401k retirement plan, Tate said. He said beginning jobs start at \$8 per hour with the possibility of advancement.

He said that at this point, the company is considering other locations besides Kirksville. He said the company is determining whether Kirks-

ville has the labor force available.

Tate said he does not have any specific knowledge about the company's potential relationship with Truman. He said he thinks the company would be willing to explore that possibility in the future.

Datha Damron-Martinez, assistant professor of business administration, said Kirksville can attract businesses because, due to advancements in technology, geographical location is not an issue.

"[Kirksville] has an extremely low cost of living, a motivated work force — they ... have skills that they could utilize," Martinez said. "We have, I believe, a very high potential for success in companies that come here."

Martinez said the University's

business department has a strong relationship with businesses in Kirksville, and this company has just as much potential.

She said Truman has students who graduate and want to stay in the area but can't because the opportunities are not available.

Debi Cartwright, associate professor of business administration, said transportation and distance from sizable cities is an issue with manufacturing, and businesses have taken their manufacturing plants elsewhere or decreased their business size.

"When you have a service-oriented company ... the location really isn't that critical," Cartwright said. "These are the kinds of businesses we need to be attracting."

Cartwright said that if this company is successful, it could be used as a benchmark to bring other companies in.

Alisa Kigar, executive director of the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce, said there are 867 unemployed people in Adair County. She said the unemployment rate for August was 6.7 percent.

"We can't make one company the savior, ... but certainly it will make a dent [in unemployment]," Kigar said.

Kigar said she thinks that if the wages offered at this job are good enough, it could draw in people from other counties and towns such as Milan or Macon.

"Statistics show that people shop in the town in which they work, so if you can draw some of those folks in to work at the call center, it would obviously boost your revenues in other areas as well," Kigar said.

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