

New faculty moves to campus



BY EMMA MUELLER
Staff Reporter

It's time to welcome a new class of Bulldogs to campus.

In addition to a new class of students, several new professors will also call Kirksville home. Several of these professors have chosen Truman as a place to start their teaching career right after earning their Master's or doctorate degrees.

Theresa Presley, associate professor of accounting, said she has had an easy transition to Kirksville. Presley recently returned from the University of Memphis where she received her doctorate.

"I decided to go back to college to get my Ph.D.," Presley said. "So I moved away for three years, and I studied at [from Kirksville] the University of Memphis. So, as a transition, it's a little different. It's like coming back except I have more of a demanding schedule, than I had before, so my life has changed."

Presley, who teaches Introduction to Financial Accounting and an introductory class in management accounting, said she hopes to work with students who are excited and energetic about the subject matter. Presley said that more importantly, she would like to leave her mark on students who pass through her classroom.

"I would like to hopefully be a part of their lives that when they leave my class they'll remember maybe something I taught them," Presley said. "Maybe they'll learn something about accounting that will help them later on."

Mike Rudy, temporary assistant professor of political science, said he is ready to transition from being a graduate student into the mindset of a fac-

ulty member.

"It's a whole new experience," Rudy said.

"It seems like you have more freedom to do more of the fun stuff. Not held back at all. I'm excited about that."

Rudy is teaching a course in Conflict Studies and a section of American National Government and said he hopes to fill the gap he sees in the political science department.

"It is the fact that they do not teach a Conflict Course or a War and Peace class," Rudy said. "That's the biggest area in international relations. They knew this hole existed. This is my area of expertise. This Conflict Studies class that I'll be teaching this fall should really help fill one of the big gaps in the curriculum."

Joe Baumann, temporary lecturer in English and Truman alumnus, said he advises students to get involved and reach out of your comfort zone.

"Whether or not you think there's something out there you think you wouldn't like, you should still give it a try because looking back when I was a freshman and all the different clubs I ended up joining, if I hadn't given them a try, I wouldn't be a member of any of them," Baumann said.

Baumann, who studied at Truman for six years, has returned to teach two sections of English 190, which is specifically designed for students in the SEE program, a two-week summer program for underrepresented soon-to-be college freshmen.

Baumann said he has a plethora of memories and experiences built up from his time at Truman. His favorite memory, however, came at the end of his time at Truman.

"The last day when I was a graduate student just summed up the entire six years for me because at that point I didn't know if I was coming back as a faculty member yet or not," Baumann said. "So instead of being in the mode of, 'Thank God I get to leave,' it was more of a reminder of all the things I got to do while

I was here."

Joe Visker, assistant professor of health and exercise sciences, said he heard nothing but great things about the University and said the decision to join the faculty was an easy one.

"Out of all the interviews that I went to, to me, Kirksville felt like a place that I could call home for a while," Visker said. "It was exactly what I was looking for in a university. I wanted a place where teaching was the main thing. All in all, it was an easy decision."

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Howkins said. "You can't just throw it all to the winds and think everything's going to be all right."

He also said the people he connected with outside the classroom taught him lessons more valuable than anything he learned from school. For example, his fraternity taught him the lessons of selflessness, looking out for and considering other people's feelings and ideas when making a decision.

Brian Krylowicz, director of University of Counseling Services, said that although the first few weeks are meant for socializing, students should expect to buckle down once the initial fun and games cease.

"The first couple of weeks you do get to be really social," Krylowicz said. "Then it kind of stops, and you have to keep up with all your reading and all your assignments. And part of this is making sure you realize that the social part exists for Truman weekend."

Truman students still can and should socialize, but they have to learn to balance their social lives with schoolwork in order to be successful, he said.

Krylowicz said he wants freshmen to meet people outside the residence hall during Truman Week. Almost everyone is afraid of meeting new people, but closing yourself off to the experience will only hinder you, he said.

"It's really anxious to go into a room of people you don't know all that well and try to get to know people and make friends," he said. "Don't listen to that anxiety. You need to go through that anxiety and say, 'Yeah I am scared, but everybody else in this room is scared too. And I'm just going to go in here and start connecting with somebody.'"

Research shows new students will initially become friends with their residence hall neighbors, although most will also branch out eventually to their classmates or club members, Krylowicz said.

"What it requires to be friends is not quality time, but oftentimes it's quantity time," he said. "And what residence halls offer is quantity time."

Students who are having difficulties adjusting to college life should first seek out their student advisers for advice, he said. If that doesn't work, and you've honestly tried to get involved and you are seriously feeling hindered or depressed, come to the University Counseling Services and make a free appointment, he said.

Don't make the common mistake of constantly calling home your best friend from home, or your significant other instead of trying to connect with the people who comprise your new home, Krylowicz said.

"You have to see Truman and Kirksville as your home and to be at home you have to be willing to be here," he said.



BY CHRIS BONING
Columnist

I'd be OK if I never heard or read the word "green" again.

It is difficult to walk into any grocery, department or appliance store these days and not see the benefits of going green touted on bright posters or discreet decals. Going green is supported around the country by city and county governments, many of which have recently started recycling programs. Say the word green to a child or an elderly woman and that individual mostly likely will know exactly what you mean — perhaps not actually, but green in an environmental context certainly is pervasive at the moment.

These developments are not necessarily bad in and of themselves, but green has become a catch-all word for anything that is good for the Earth. Green is frustrating because it hides the truth: Companies

Green concept loses face

seem to slap the word green on anything marketing executives can think of because it is relatively consumer-friendly. That is, people accept products or practices that are so-called green because the environmental advantages of doing so are in the fine print. Despite the aforementioned recent uptick in recycling in the U.S., the exponential increase in the availability of reusable shopping bags and the burgeoning of organic and local food movement, to the average American consumer it is still uncool to be an environmentalist, otherwise known as an individual who is unwashed, unambitious and who cares about animals more than humans. Because of this stigma, everything that is positive for the planet and anything an environmentalist would support apparently must be rendered green to make it commercially palatable to the unsuspecting public.

That is a shame. Individuals who recycle anything and everything, plant gardens, ride bicycles or dry laundry in the sun are doing a truly beautiful thing. It is amazing that in this day and age there would still be a stigma attached to being Earth-friendly, especially when doing so can be easy, efficient and inexpensive. Environmentalists are often

characterized as tree-hugging idiots, but it is more idiotic to buy into the corporate industrial machine than to insist on making your own bread and jam.

Although there is no doubt that some companies that encourage the act of going green actually do have the preservation of the environment in mind, it is reasonable that there also are some businesses that encourage green as a way to make green, so to speak. This practice is known as greenwashing, an activity that began during the 1960s and 1970s at the start of the contemporary environmental movement. Some companies that have been called out by environmental organizations such as Greenpeace and corporate watchdog groups seem pretty obvious: DuPont, General Electric, Shell Oil, Exxon Mobil and Dow Chemical. However, there are hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of businesses, corporations and companies in the U.S., and watchdog groups cannot track all of them. Therefore, it is up to consumers to be aware of the interests they are supporting.

Greenwashing can be determined by examining the company's consistency

over time in relation to advertising, researching controversies in the company's past and following the company's paper trail, i.e. tracking which groups it donates money to, according to SourceWatch, a branch of the media think tank, Center for Media and Democracy.

Corporations are not the only entities that are dishonest in this business of going green. Also troublesome are the people who buy into being green without understanding the nuances of environmentalism, such as individuals who express support for animal rights and then carry a leather purse or the folks who buy locally produced and sustainably grown produce and then put it in a plastic bag. The road to hell is paved with good intentions, and it is questionable whether these particular individuals will continue to support the environment when green is no longer a trend.

Speaking of which, as long as being green remains popular, individuals must think more about what they are doing, which is taking care of the earth, and whether their heart is in the right place. There's no other way to spin it.

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WITH THE INDEX EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

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