

University utilizes social networks

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

On campus organizations are trying to reach students by the most effective way possible, and that now includes social networking sites. Participating organizations such as University Counseling Services and the Career Center hope to reach students faster and more effectively.

Elizabeth Bauer, team leader at the Career Center, supervises the students running the Career Center's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The Facebook page made last spring inspired the Career Center's recent switch to Twitter.

"Students will be informed of the programs and services the Career Center offers just by default because they're logging onto the social media anyway for their own enjoyment," Bauer said.

The new pages are aimed at new, and returning students. Bauer said she hopes they will encourage increased use of the Career Center. Through the new resources, students will become informed about services and events, such as the Career Expo held Oct. 21.

The extra media helps reinforce the posters and other forms of publicity the Career Center already employs, Bauer said. Students in charge of the pages up-

date them at least two to three times a week. Bauer said the Career Center currently has 228 fans on Facebook and 107 followers on Twitter, and is also working on a LinkedIn page, hoping to reach out to an additional audience through the business-oriented networking site.

When Brian Krylowicz, director of counseling services, began working at Truman, he decided a Facebook account would be as beneficial here as at other universities' counseling services. The account was made last school year.

"With our Facebook, we've been trying to make a big push to get people to well, I mean it sounds weird, 'friend' us," Krylowicz said.

Counseling Services' Facebook page has daily posts covering benefits and events. It reaches more students through its Facebook account because students aren't as intimidated by researching on their own, rather than walking into the counseling services building by themselves, he said.

When students come in for an appointment, they are asked if the Web site or Facebook account was accessed prior to the appointment. Students utilize Facebook because it's less formal, and counseling services utilize it because it's easier to update.

In addition to Facebook,



Photo taken from www.youtube.com/user/ucsTruman

the University Counseling Services also has iTunes, YouTube and Twitter accounts.

"We're all over the place," Krylowicz said.

On iTunes, students can access 15-minute podcasts about counsel-related subjects. So far, the iTunes page has had around 800 hits.

The YouTube account

came about for orientation purposes, as well as keeping parents informed. The counseling services' Twitter account is new, and will be used to post events and new programs Krylowicz said.

Truman recently opened a YouTube account, and web services manager, Todd Kuhns, plans on keeping the account updated and grow-

ing as the year progresses (See story, Page 9)

Heidi Templeton, public relations employee, helps with the YouTube account. "Students are very in tune with YouTube, and constantly talking about YouTube videos, and so it certainly makes sense for the University to tap into that aspect," Templeton said.

Diane Richmond is the acting director of academic technology and instructional designer and works with Kuhns to get the videos from faculty members up and running.

"Teachers are always looking for ways to make what they're teaching come more alive for students," Richmond said.

Bow hunting allowed in Kirksville

BY CHRIS DREW
Staff Reporter

A new city ordinance allows bow hunting on private property within the city limits of Kirksville.

The Kirksville city council convened earlier this month and passed an ordinance which prohibits the discharge of any "air rifle, BB gun, gas pistol, compressed air gun or other destructive devices," but explicitly does not prohibit bowhunting.

Originally included in the list of prohibited devices, the council voted Aug. 3 to amend the ordinance and, after discussing the pros and cons, voted to allow bowhunting within the city limits.

Following in the steps of many metropolitan areas such as St. Louis and Kansas City, the Kirksville city council approved the ordinance in hopes of fostering

the hunting community and preventing the overpopulation of game.

"I don't know if we're going to see any sort of immediate impact from this," community services director Melanie Smith said. "It was more just about clarification."

The council was unsure whether to include bows as "destructive devices," Smith said.

The ordinance allows bowhunting within the city limits only on private property. Any kind of hunting on public property is still prohibited, except in cases where a separate ordinance permits it.

Many bow hunters already use their bows in town. They thought the council might include it as a prohibited device, Smith said.

"There just needed to be some clarification," she said.

Groups to address sexual assault

BY ALEX DALECKI
Staff Reporter

Following the veto of the student change to the amnesty clause, various on-campus groups have begun planning initiatives to increase the amount of sexual assaults reported at Truman.

The Women's Resource Center, Student Senate, Victim's Support Services, the Department of Public Safety and Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist have teamed up in an effort to build a comprehensive program to deal with sexual assault on campus.

The various groups met Tuesday, Sept. 1 to discuss possible approaches to combating sexual abuse. The primary method discussed was educating the public, said JoEllen Flanagan president of Student Senate.

"It would be an interactive presentation telling them what to look for, how to handle a situation, making sure you have numbers in your phone," Flanagan said. "If one person gets helped, then it's worth it to me."

One specific possibility discussed was the concept of "Empowered Bystanders," in which students are educated on how to spot possible sexual abuse and subsequently how to stop and report it.

"The WRC and the Senate were the ones behind the

amnesty clause," Flanagan said. "It failed, and [we wondered], 'What was another way we could do something on campus?' There was all this momentum [for the amnesty clause], and I don't want it to just evaporate. I want something to come out of it."

The main goal of the initiative is to change on-campus perceptions about sexual abuse. The percentage of completed or attempted rape victimization among women in higher educational institutions might climb to between one-fifth and one-quarter, according to The National Sexual Victimization of College Women study.

Flanagan said that DPS statistics usually only show two or three rapes per year, which is indicative of a population unwilling to report sexual abuse.

Much of the impetus for this initiative comes from efforts during the spring 2009 to include an amnesty clause in the Student Conduct Code.

The student body passed the clause in the spring student government elections, but the Board of Governors

rejected its inclusion in the Code. The clause stated: "A student, who is the victim of non-consensual sexual contact or intercourse as defined by the Code, who reports the violation, will be granted amnesty from charges of public intoxication on University premises, possession and use of alcohol and/or possession or use of marijuana."

But motivations behind the Amnesty Clause were flawed, said Sarah Ehrhard,

director of the WRC.

"We started it last year because we had heard rumors about women being afraid to report [sexual abuse] because of being in-

toxicated, and being underage," Ehrhard said.

However, there are no reported instances of sexual assault victims being charged with a Minor in Possession, Ehrhard said.

"Based on my conversations with the powers that be, they are more concerned with the rape or assault, which is a felony, and less concerned with the MIP,

which is a misdemeanor," Ehrhard said. "By continuing to spread these rumors that MIPs will be given to victims only perpetuates the rape myths that cause people not to report in the first place."

There were a variety of legitimate reasons the Clause was unable to pass, Gilchrist said. The Clause was plagued from the beginning by legal challenges, such as the fact that a campus law, like the Clause, cannot trump a state law, like an MIP.

While the Administration did not adopt the Amnesty Clause, Gilchrist said she acknowledges that the current perceptions about sexual abuse are problematic. The University has not officially endorsed any plan or program, and Gilchrist supports student efforts to create one.

"Since it was a student initiative, I am trying to empower them to decide what they think would be useful, and to decide what they think they could stand behind," Gilchrist said. "Once they make a decision, I would be more than happy to provide support."

The WRC will be holding a panel discussion concerning the amnesty clause and what resulted from it during Sexual Assault Awareness Week which is Sept. 21 through 24. The panel will consist of Flanagan, representatives from the WRC, Victim's Support Services and DPS.

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JoEllen Flanagan
President of Student Senate

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