

*"You know some guys that do this Elvis bit, they wake up being Elvis, they go to bed being Elvis, they think they are Elvis, and they're nuts." – Paul Fowler*

# All Eyes On: Paul Fowler

BY ANNE REBAR  
Staff Reporter

The King of Rock and Roll is alive and well in Kirksville, at least in spirit.

Paul Fowler, owner of the downtown Kirksville bar T.P.'s Office at 110 S. Elson St., has been an Elvis fan since the '60s.

"I started doing Elvis shows in 1990 because I needed a theme for the bar," Fowler said. "I have gone as far as Alabama to do shows, as well as St. Louis, Chicago and Des Moines."

Fowler, also known as T.P., originally from Rockford, Ill. has lived in Kirksville for the past 35 years. His Elvis shows have been popular throughout the years, spreading by word of mouth from friends and bar patrons, many of them Truman students, who have seen him perform.

"I do the whole show myself," Fowler said. "When I was doing tour shows I used to have road people with me, a bodyguard and a sound guy. Now that I'm older, I don't do the shows where I used to."

Fowler owns six different Elvis suits, but he joked he can only fit into three of them. The suits were custom-made by two different seamstresses, one in Las Vegas who makes star clothes and another here in Kirksville. He recently donned one of his elaborate costumes this past summer and an almost life-size poster of him at the performance adorns the wall in the back office of his bar.

"On my birthday this year I did the show for the Kirksville Arts Association as part of the summer concerts series," Fowler said. "We got rained out and had to move into the arts building, which is where the picture was taken."

Many of Fowler's Elvis performances have taken place in bars, some of which did not include a stage.

"They usually find me a big table to stand on, or I just get right up on the bar," Fowler said. "Anywhere I can get my ass on, really, I'll be up there. I've been up on this bar several times."

The Elvis fan not only dresses up as the King, but the bar also boasts an impressive collection of

Elvis memorabilia.

"Oh, I'm not a real big collector as you can see, these are just a few trinkets you see right here," Fowler said sarcastically.

He built his collection from random pieces he found while traveling. His favorite piece, a gold Elvis statue, he picked up on sale in a liquor store. Fowler said while he is a fan of the King and he enjoys picking up new items to add to the collection, he's not one of those Elvis performers who gets obsessive.

"You know some guys that do this Elvis bit, they wake up being Elvis, they go to bed being Elvis, they think they are Elvis and they're nuts," Fowler said.

When not performing Elvis songs for a crowd, Fowler said he enjoys being involved at the bar. Along with his wife, Artie, he is always at the bar welcoming people in and getting to know the bar patrons. The bar is a regular student hangout on two weeknights – Tuesday night drink specials and Wednesday Trivia night – as well as the usual weekend nights.

"The best part about owning a bar is getting to spend time with people," Fowler said. "We really get along with all the kids who come in."

However, there are some downsides to being a bar owner. Fowler said the economy has definitely affected his business lately: patrons looking to save money are cutting alcohol out of their budgets. Other occasional problems include minors who attempt to get served and patrons trying to drive home after having too much to drink.

"Of course I don't condone anybody walking out of here drunk and getting into a car, never have, never will," Fowler said. "I hate that, but most of the kids that come up here are pretty well-centered kids and they know to leave their cars at home, and we're close so they walk up here, which is great."

Fowler said he has really enjoyed owning the bar and it has afforded him many opportunities over the years to don his Elvis gear and belt out tunes. He still gets on the microphone a few times a month to treat bar-goers to an impromptu show.



Kirksville resident Paul Fowler owns six custom-made Elvis suits made by a celebrity seamstress and local artist. He has traveled the country doing impersonations and has performed since 1990. *Krista Goodman/Index*

# Colloquium discusses human rights

BY EMMA MUELLER  
Staff Reporter

Tonight marks the first of three Global Issues Colloquium events this semester. The first session, "Transnationalism and the Constitution: The Globalization of Rights," will be presented in conjunction with the observance of Constitution Day. The presentation, which features Peggy McGuinness of the University of Missouri School of Law, will take place at 7 p.m. tonight in Magruder Hall 2001.

This week's presentation by Peggy McGuinness, associate professor of law at the University of Missouri School of Law, will focus on how globalization is leading to a convergence with human rights issues. She hopes students will leave the lecture room with a greater understanding of the global world around them, in conjunction with human rights.

"I hope students take from it a broader understanding of [the] language the U.S. constitution and the U.S. courts operate on," Mc-

Guinness said. "The questions of rights in the United States affect how other countries and other cultures address similar problems in their societies and how other advanced democracies and rights regarding states solve problems in their countries."

McGuinness is well versed in foreign affairs, having worked as a Foreign Service Officer in Canada, Pakistan and Germany. She teaches courses in international law, international human rights, international dispute resolution, foreign affairs and federal courts.

"What we're really seeing the emergence of in the current political system is transnational law-making where we can take the best methods and the best outcomes of other countries to inform ourselves of our own problems," McGuinness said.

Julie Lochbaum, director of faculty development at the Center for Teaching and Learning, explained how our constitution, in the past, has been the model for other countries and why it is important to recognize Constitution Day.

"There is this movement globally to trans-

nationalize human rights," Lochbaum said. "What does that mean for our constitution, which is the oldest constitution in the world? Historically it has been the one that all the other countries look to establish human rights, but that's no longer the case. This became an issue with the most recent Supreme Court nominee's hearings. What was the proper role for judges of other nation's legal traditions? [The] United States is not used to not being a leader on that."

Lochbaum said the series started with the faculty's desire to have an international studies minor on campus.

"It started as a group of faculty who wished to offer an international studies minor years before we had the structure to propose and approve a minor, so they thought a good first step would be to have an international studies speaker series on campus," Lochbaum said. "It's always been a mix of externally invited speakers, as well as Truman campus faculty, and groups who have some kind of expertise and importance to share

that would be from an international studies perspective."

Sylvia Macauley, associate professor of history and director of the McNair Program, has been involved with the Global Issues Colloquium from its inception in 2000 to what it is today.

"I was one of the founding members of the group," Macauley said. "A group of us came together and decided we wanted some sort of forum where we could discuss global issues, things that would broaden the minds of not just faculty, but students as well."

Macauley said the colloquium has been more than she hoped it would be when the series began.

"We have had really interesting and dynamic topics addressed and speakers come through," Macauley said. "It has been very, very rewarding."

In addition to this week's series, two more will be held during the semester. The next presentation will feature Alan Guskin, and the final presentation of the year will focus on international education.



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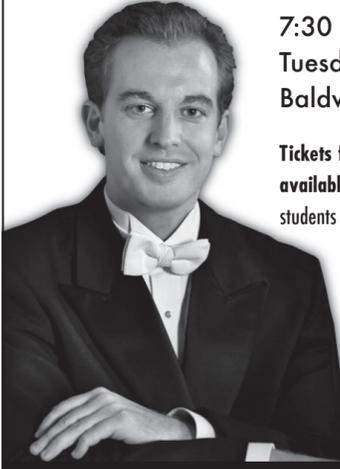
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7:30 p.m.  
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Tickets for Truman students, faculty and staff will be available starting September 22. Free tickets for Truman students with a Truman ID will be available in the Student Activities Board 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.

For more information, call 785.4016 or visit the Lyceum website at [lyceum.truman.edu](http://lyceum.truman.edu)