

Communication lab offers speech services

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

Students with a fear of public speaking now have a place to turn for help.

The communication lab, located in Barnett Hall and the communication department is trying to spread the word about the many services it offers. The lab is designed to help students improve their speeches with the help of student lab assistants. The lab assistants can provide assistance in a variety of ways, from coming up with a topic to speech delivery.

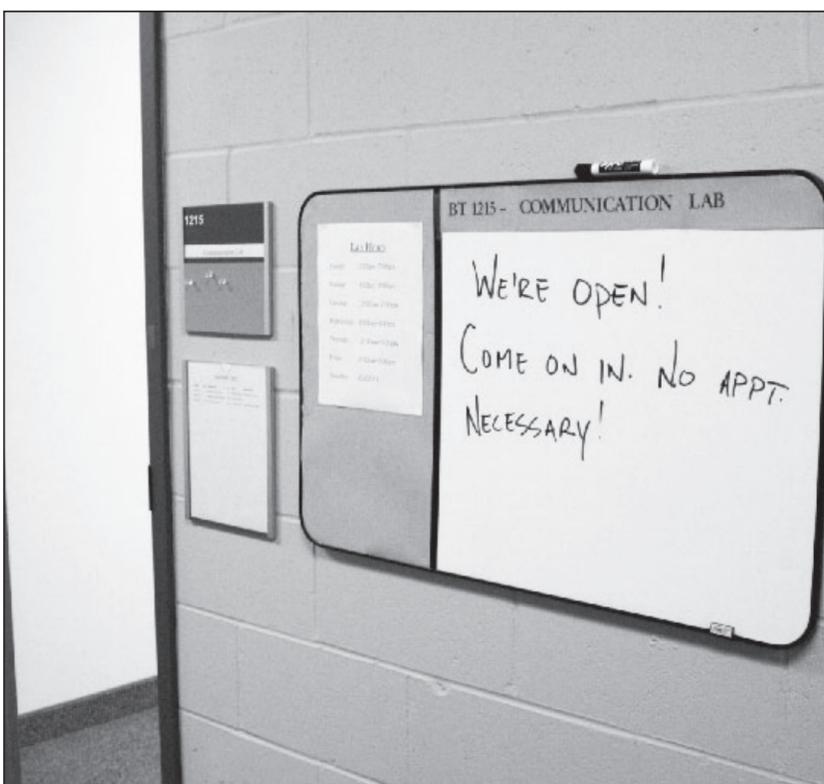
The lab started two years ago under the direction of Communication Professor James Cianciola, professor of communication, who first implemented the idea after the construction of Barnett.

Initially, the communication department wanted students to have access to tutoring, Jay Self, associate professor of communication, said. The department didn't want the tutoring only to be open to communication students, but rather to have it available to the entire student body for presentations in any class, Self said. When the communication department moved to Barnett, the space for the lab was finally available. The opening of the lab was a departmental project under the direction of Elizabeth Clark, the chair of the communication department.

"It opens up the speech process to all students and helps them better understand the larger goal, which is an essential part to any liberal arts education," Self said.

While most students primarily worry about delivery, that accounts for only 20 to 30 percent of the whole presentation, Self said. Besides delivery, students also need to focus on organization, content and style, and help for all of those speech components is available, Self said.

The communication lab is trying to get its name out by distributing fliers, putting a public service announcement out on KTRM and advertising in Truman Today. All of the publicity is an attempt to reach students beyond COMM 170 classes, Self



Mayank Dhungana/Index

The communication lab helps students write speeches and gives them presentation tips.

said. The COMM 170 professors recommend the lab, and some require its use or give extra credit for using it. Self requires his COMM 170 students to go to the lab before their first speech to get another person's viewpoint, but only recommends it after that.

Fear of public speaking includes delivery elements, knowing how to organize the speech effectively and having a good command of language, Self said.

"It seems odd to me that people are more afraid of public speaking than they are dying," Self said.

Nine lab assistants work in the lab, with one or two assistants working each day, and it's open for 30 hours a week, including Sunday nights.

"It's a resource there for students, and if you have any hesitation about speaking

in public, this is the place to come," Self said. "It's for anybody and any project."

Junior Kayla Jungermann began working in the lab last fall after her communication professor recommended it. The lab assistants have received training to help students with any aspect of the speech process, including audience appropriate topics or even just breaking down the speech, Self said. The lab assistants help organize students' research with outlines or help come up with a good topic, Jungermann said. Assistants also help students develop their speeches by allowing them to practice in front of an audience.

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"Usually, we'll have them sign in and have them write

down what class they are coming in for, what professor and what they need help with," Jungermann said.

She also said the lab is helpful because the assistants pick up habits that students might not be aware they have. After coming to the lab, assistants see a lot of improvements based on where the students started, Jungermann said.

Freshman Shelby Wittmeyer decided to use the lab while planning her first speech. She got help writing her outline and practiced her speech in front of a lab assistant, she said.

"I naturally have somewhat of a fear of public speaking, so having the lab is a perfect place to practice," Wittmeyer said.

Wittmeyer's COMM 170 professor, Cianciola, recommended using the lab. Though she has only used the communication lab once this year, Wittmeyer said she plans on using it for the remainder of the school year. She also highly recommends the lab to other students because it's a place to go whether you want to practice your speech or just get advice.

NEWS | In Brief

Alan Guskin to lecture on education

Alan Guskin, Distinguished Professor, Ph.D. Program in Leadership and Change and University President Emeritus at Antioch University, is speaking 7 p.m. Oct. 1 as part of the 2009 Baldwin Lecture. The lecture, "The Courage to Change: Higher Education Facing 21st Century Realities," will discuss the ways teachers instruct, how students learn and how the way universities operate must change. The lecture will be preceded by a dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$8. To RSVP, contact ctl@truman.edu.

United Way campaign underway

Truman's United Way Campaign began Sept. 14. This year's goal is to raise \$56,000. The money will support local programs that help individuals pursue the goals of income, health and education. For more information, contact Debra Kerby at dkerby@truman.edu or Joe Hamilton at Hamilton@truman.edu.

Guest artist Performs

Truman will host a guest artist, Paul Merklo, at 2 p.m. Sept. 20 in Ophelia Parish Performance Hall. Merklo is the principal trumpet of the Montreal Symphony. He will perform solo works and will be accompanied by Janet Coggins, accompanying coordinator for Truman. After the recital, there will be an exhibition of new musical instruments by West Music.

Internship informational meeting

There will be an informational meeting about the Missouri Government Internship at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 30 in the SUB Spanish Room. The Missouri Government Internship offers students the opportunity to intern at the Capitol in Jefferson City with a public official, legislator or state agency during the spring 2010 semester. Interns receive a \$2,500 stipend and up to 15 credit hours. The internship is open to all majors. For more information contact, Heidi Templeton at 660-785-4015 or heidit@truman.edu or Candy Young at 660-785-4650 or cyoung@truman.edu.

Best seller speaks at Truman

Today at 7:30 p.m. the Iota Xi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, along with the SUB after Dark, is bringing L.A. Times best-selling author Lawrence C. Ross Jr. to speak. Ross is recognized as an expert in African American fraternities and sororities. He wrote the book "The Divine Nine," which is a national best seller on multiple review indexes including the L.A. Times, Essence and Blackboard. A reception and book signing will follow the event. For more information, contact Ope Amosu at oga993@truman.edu.

Applications available for Who's Who

Applications are available for the 2009-10 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges award in the Student Union Building 3100. Nominations are due to the student affairs office by Friday Sept. 25. Qualifications for this award include a 2.75 GPA, intent to graduate in December, May or August of 2009-10 and to be active in campus and community activities. For more information contact student affairs at 660-785-4111.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$860 to pay for the Student Senate retreat.

- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$150 for expenses associated with the selection process for the Student Representative to the Board of Governors.

DPS | Reports

9/13 Freshman Eric Ricker was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

9/13 Senior Thomas Kalla was charged with being intoxicated in public at Ophelia Parrish.

Liquor store closes during the summer

Vacation time turns into a permanent plan for Party Mart owners

BY STEPHANIE HALL
News Editor

Party Mart liquor store located on South Elson closed this summer — once temporarily and then finally closing for good.

Store owners Nancy Porter and her brother decided to take

a vacation at the end of June with the college crowd gone. After their vacation, they decided not to reopen Party Mart.

"We closed for a couple weeks for a vacation and then we decided it was so nice of a vacation, we just were not going to reopen," Porter said.

Porter said she and her co-owner realized how much time and effort the business took during their break.

"[Party Mart] is my brother and I's, and we both own other

businesses," Porter said. "Right now we just need to spend all of our other time at our other businesses. The other businesses are our bread and butter."

Porter said they originally decided to close the store for a vacation in June because business was slow in the summer.

"There's not many college kids here and summers are slow, so we thought it would be nice to have a vacation," Porter said.

She said this summer wasn't necessarily slower than any

other summer, just slower than it had been in the school year. She said the business was just not as profitable as some of their others.

"It's the big stores that hurt the most because of the pricing they get," Porter said.

She said it was a good business and they never had any complaints or problems about selling alcohol to minors. She said they are not selling the business, but putting the building up for sale.

Welcome parents!



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- Est. 1983
- Locally-owned and operated
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