

Job outlook improves

Graduating seniors get help from the University Career Center to secure jobs after commencement

ANDREA HEWITT
News Reporter

Several independent economic forecast firms have reported that Missouri is in a position to emerge from the recession. Meanwhile, students can take advantage of the University Career Center for help finding employment.

John Fougere, spokesperson for the Missouri department of economic development, said that Missouri's unemployment rate for October was 9.3 percent, which is high, but Missouri has stayed under the national unemployment rate for eight consecutive months.

"Our first priority with this administration is to create jobs," Fougere said. "We're doing that in a number of ways. Last summer, the governor signed a comprehensive job bill that did a number of things to make our state a much better environment for business.

"In addition to that, the new legislative session is about to start in January here in Jefferson City, and we're putting together a very aggressive package of policy initiatives to create jobs in Missouri and to educate Missourians for the careers of tomorrow."

Elizabeth Bauer, career coordinator at the Career Center, said the job market for students is looking up but still is low in comparison to previous years.

"I would say that it's going to be difficult, especially if they are graduating in December, because they don't have much time left," Bauer said. "Hopefully if they haven't started a very intense search



Junior Rebecca Johnson (right) helps junior Daniela Conway with her résumé at the University Career Center on Tuesday afternoon.

they have the finances to suspend themselves for a couple months."

The Career Center polls graduating seniors, and of the 254 who are graduating in December, 45 have a job lined up, 82 are going to graduate school and 98 are unsure of their plans. Twenty-nine did not respond.

The Career Center offers services to prepare for finding a job, such as reviewing cover letters and résumés, toning interviewing skills and hosting a career expo each semester.

"We also help students one-on-one," she said. "If a student wants to walk in and says, 'I need help finding a job,' we have drop-in hours where they can talk to full-time staff, or they can just come in and use the Career Center."

Bauer said she encourages network-

ing through people students already know in the field and to consider the employer you're applying to. Big corporations hire 10 to 12 months in advance while non-profits hire for work immediately.

Senior Kaitlin Anderson said she hasn't lined up a job for after graduation yet but has utilized the Career Center resources and plans to continue to after graduation.

"I took business and professional communication, and it required me to do a mock interview, make a résumé and get it checked," Anderson said. "And I've done a couple of the [Professional Development Institute] PDI events the Career Center puts on. ... They do have a lot to offer — it's just a matter of whether or not you're going to go there and talk to them."

Survey reports satisfaction

BY SHIHARA MADUWAGE
Staff Reporter

Truman students say they're satisfied with their social lives. The 2009 Student Interview Project, conducted by professor of psychology Jeffrey Vittengl, measured the overall satisfaction of undergraduate students with the quality of life at Truman.

Of the 129 students surveyed, 87 percent said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their Truman social lives. Interviewees attributed this to reasons such as Greek life, athletics, positive interactions in academic activities, campus living and the friendly community of Kirksville, according to the report. Students also said they were satisfied with the academic achievements of the campus.

Regina Morin, associate vice president for enrollment management, said that prospective students judge Truman on its academic achievement and location. In 2009, the freshman-yield percentage — the percentage of accepted students who enroll at Truman — increased from 44.1 percent to 45.8 percent for in-state students.

"I think one of the very first things that [prospective students] think is that ... you are going to have to work really hard," Morin said. "In our marketing, we have to kind of alleviate that fear."

She said that students get this impression mainly from Truman's high admission requirements.

Morin said the students enrolled at Truman are expected to work hard but are given learning opportunities in and out of the classroom, and in the end they receive a degree with integrity.

"You are going to come to a place where the people around you are bright, and they are well prepared," she said. "You learn so much from the critical mass of people sitting around you and contributing to the dynamics of the classroom."

Morin said the rural location makes some students think there will be nothing to do at Truman, which she said isn't true. She added that a student's satisfaction with his or her social life is based largely on personal choices and the student's involvement in campus activities. Morin said the admissions department is working hard to convey to the students the essence of Truman and what it means to be a Truman student.

Justin Collins, hall director of West Campus Suites, said Residence Life formed a Fun and Spirit Committee about two years ago, comprised mainly of student advisers. He said the committee organizes and promotes campus-wide activities in

which all students can participate.

Collins said that during the past few years they have made changes around the campus and organized social events, receiving positive responses. He said surveys and students' responses show that current students are very satisfied with their social life at Truman and with what the Kirksville community has to offer.

"It is our goal to make sure that Truman students are having a great time," Collins said. "They [should] feel a sense of pride [and] have some fun. We have been working on some traditions and stuff. I think there is definitely an increase [in satisfaction] over the last couple of years."

Collins said the committee organized Oktoberfest and the Dog Pound, a cheering section at football games. More than 500 students attended Oktoberfest each of the past two years.

He said the committee was trying to publicize these events to current and prospective students so that potential students can get a better idea about the social life at Truman and what it has to offer.

"I think that over the last year or so we have tried to have some of the major events during some visit days and during some of the tours," Collins said. "So I think that [prospective students] get a good sense of how Truman is."

Heidi Templeton, director of public relations, said her department tries to get rid of the negative small town impression of Truman and Kirksville by promoting the activities taking place on campus and around town to potential students.

"Admission has several handouts that they are now giving to prospective students," she said. "Kirksville has a new tourism office, a new tourism director and they are also working on creating some brochures that talk about the town of Kirksville. The tourism director comes now to every visit event."

Templeton said the admissions department currently is working with publication and admissions to create a new Web site about Kirksville.

Students' perception about high academic standards was definitely a strength in promoting the University, she said. Templeton said that a few students might think Truman is too hard for them and be discouraged from enrolling, but the University is working to eliminate that fear.

Templeton said the best way to promote the University and what it has to offer is through current students talking to prospective students about their experiences at Truman.

"They are the most reliable source," Templeton said.

"It is our goal to make sure that Truman students are having a great time."

Justin Collins
West Campus Suites
Hall Director.

NEWS | In Brief

City council grants liquor license

The Kirksville City Council approved a liquor license for Walgreens at its meeting Monday. Beginning in January, Walgreens will be licensed to sell liquor and beer in their original packages and to sell liquor on Sundays.

Carnahan to speak at commencement

Former U.S. Senator Jean Carnahan will give the commencement address at the graduation ceremony Dec. 19. Carnahan was the first Missouri woman to serve in the U.S. Senate. Carnahan also will accept an honorary degree on behalf of her late husband, former Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan.

TIA sponsors book drive

Truman in Africa and Better World Books are sponsoring a book drive to benefit Invisible Children. Collection bins will be in buildings across campus to collect donated books until Dec. 18. Any unwanted college-level books published within the last 10 years will be accepted. The collected books will be sold online and the money raised will go to Invisible Children. Un-sold books will be recycled.

Minor Detail hosts winter concert

A capella groups Minor Detail and Sweet Nothings will perform Christmas and pop tunes at their Winter Concert on Friday. The show will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in the SUB Down Under. Admission is free.

A capella groups to perform

True Men, Franklin Street Singers and Sophisticated Ladies will perform at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in Baldwin Hall Auditorium. The groups will perform holiday songs and traditional favorites. Admission is free.

Accounting student receives award

Senior Elise Bailey was named Student of the Month in October by the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants LEAP program. The organization represents almost 10,000 CPA members in Missouri and provides members with continuing education, governmental advocacy and networking opportunities.

Board of Governors elect chairs

Board of Governors Matthew Potter, John Sissel and Kenneth Read have been elected to serve in the roles of chair, vice chair and secretary, respectively, for the upcoming year. They will assume these roles beginning in February 2010.

Service-learning project offered

Students now have the opportunity to complete scholarship service hours by participating in a service-learning project and use what they have learned in the classroom in real-world situations. Students involved in the project will work in the Kirksville community and design and implement projects with off-campus organizations. The positions can be found online at the Tru-Positions Web site, trupositions.truman.edu.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$300 to bring the Freedom Writers and their film to campus.
- Student Senate passed a resolution to encourage students to wear purple on Fridays to support Truman Athletics.

Crime | Reports

- 12/4 Junior John Hitson was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 12/4 Sophomore Christine Bowles was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 12/6 Freshman Ashley Butner was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

Alpha Sigma Gamma's

Holiday Market

One day only!
Saturday, December 12
Pershing Arena, 9am-3pm

Holiday shopping, fun, and treats!
Get your picture taken with Santa and his elves!

Novelty holiday items:
Jewelry, bags, home-made crafts,
and MUCH MORE!

Silent Auction featuring themed baskets!

Sponsored by Alpha Sigma Gamma

All proceeds support Kirksville's Victim Support Services

For more information, contact Allison Schafers at 314-323-4938
or email ryleholidaymarket@gmail.com



57th Annual

FINALS SCREAM

Sunday, December 13th
9pm - 12am
Activities in:

Student Recreation Center & Student Union Building

Volleyball
Badminton
Table Tennis
Basketball
Scooter Races
FREE Massages

Movie in the Hub
Arts and Crafts
Late-night yoga
9:30-10:30pm
Bring a towel or mat

FREE pancakes in Mainstreet from 9pm-12am

Come relieve your stress!