

Police issue 1,950 tickets in speed trap

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers issued tickets to more than 1,950 motorists and warned more than 2,400 others for traffic violations during two road safety campaigns conducted on state highways during Thanksgiving Break, marking one of the busiest holidays with the lowest number of accidents in 25 years.

The two campaigns, Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort), a national traffic safety campaign, and the 10-mile trooper program, an initiative by MSHP, covered all interstate and other heavily traveled highways in Missouri.

Troopers staked out the roads every 10 miles from noon to midnight Nov. 25 and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 29. Police issued citations to 1,150 motorists for speeding, 236 for seat belt violations, 88 for driving without insurance and 181 for parking dangerously on the highway. Only 11 motorists were arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Lt. John Hotz, Missouri State Highway Patrol spokesman, said the C.A.R.E. campaign will be repeated during the Christmas holiday, and he urged motorists to observe caution during inclement weather.

"The first snowfall of the year is usually risky, because most drivers stick to speed limits for ideal conditions and forget to slow down or increase following distances or to use their headlights," Hotz said.

The Highway Patrol will conduct the campaign again, he said. The program allows each troop to focus on busy highways and increases the visibility of officers.

There were only three road fatalities recorded during Thanksgiving Break, the lowest figure recorded in 25 years.

"Missouri has not experienced this few traffic deaths over the Thanksgiving holiday counting period since 1984, when three deaths were reported that year as well," Col. James Keathley, Missouri State Highway Patrol superintendent, said in a statement.

"The Missouri State Highway Patrol takes holiday weekends very seriously. Taking the job of driving seriously and remembering to buckle up will help reduce the number of traffic crashes and fatalities all year long."

Missouri has recorded an 11 percent decline in road fatalities during the first 11 months of 2009, compared to the same period in 2008.

There were 842 fatal road crashes on Missouri's highways at this time in 2008, compared to 741 fatal crashes during the same period in 2009.

However, the 16 northeast Missouri counties covered by Troop B of the Missouri State Highway Patrol have not seen a significant fall in road fatalities, with 27 road deaths as of Dec. 8, 2009, compared to 28 deaths during the same period in 2008.

Missouri's annual total for 2008 was 960, down from 992 in 2007 and 1,096 in 2006. The Missouri State Highway Patrol has attributed the decline in

Traffic ticket breakdown

Missouri State Highway Patrol issued 1,957 tickets during Thanksgiving Break:

- Exceeding Speed Limit: 1,150
- Seat belt violations: 236
- Non-moving: 181
- Hazardous moving violations: 38
- Following too close: 29
- Child restraint violations: 17
- Driving while intoxicated: 11
- Careless and imprudent driving: 8
- Failure to yield: 6
- Total warnings: 2,423

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fatal crashes to its efforts and operations against drinking and driving and other traffic offenses.

The number of fatal road crashes in the U.S. has been declining since 2005 when the national total was 39,252, due in part to improved vehicle safety and traffic policing efforts. The national total for 2008 was 34,017 fatal crashes, according to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System.

Truman offers new graduate programs

The University adds three new master's programs, hoping to increase enrollment

BY DANA BRUXVOORT
Staff Reporter

Truman is in the process of implementing three new master's programs, all of which could be in place by Fall 2010.

These graduate degrees in school counseling, leadership and professional science would increase the number of master's programs at Truman from six to nine.

Provost Troy Paino said the University is looking to increase graduate programs because of the changing landscapes of higher education and the professional world. He said that today, many jobs require a master's degree.

"We think it's important to offer opportunities for both students who are here and other students to get those kinds of degrees that will help them be successful in the workforce because ... oftentimes now a bachelor's degree isn't enough," Paino said.

He said Truman is and always will be primarily an undergraduate institution. Recently the University has had fewer and fewer graduate programs.

"Truman has been a little reluctant to expand its graduate programming because of its own concern about its focus wanting to be on undergraduate [education], which I also want to be my main focus," Paino said. "If we're going to have graduate programs, we want them to be consistent with our mission as a liberal arts and science university. So as we think about new graduate programs, we really want to think about it in that context."

Maria Di Stefano, associate provost and dean of graduate studies, said the addition of these new master's programs will fulfill needs within the University and assist in recruitment. She said there are typically between 200 and 250 master's students at Truman each year.

"Truman is ... working very intentionally on the recruitment of students so as to keep moving the University forward and go through these tight economic times in a sound manner — in a manner that makes sense with the mission of the University," Di Stefano said. "Each one of these three programs really responds to a different need and has come about in a very different manner."

Masters in School Counseling

The school counseling master's program is not new to Truman. About five years ago the program was put on inactive status, largely because of a lack of funding. This program will be reactivated beginning January 2010.

"We talked about the needs for school counselors in the area, particularly, for quite awhile, and that's a need that has been well-documented," Di Stefano said.

Professor of counseling Christopher Maglio said the previous counseling graduate program included three tracks — school counseling, community and mental health and student affairs. School counseling is the only track being reactivated.

Maglio said the school counseling program will be uniquely structured and different than most master's programs. It is designed as a cohort model and will accept new students only as the program cycles through each two-year time span.

There already are 12 students accepted for next semester and several more applications are pending.

The counseling program will be designed as a part-time degree. Students will take only two classes per semester and four classes during the summer. Maglio said this makes the program accessible for individuals such as teachers, who have full-time jobs. The program also requires a practicum, which primarily consists of observation hours and a 600-hour internship.

Students will take classes in career counseling, individual counseling, group counseling, theory and ethics. Upon completing the program, students will be certified to practice elementary and secondary school counseling.

Maglio said he is the only full-time counseling faculty professor. The other classes will be taught by adjuncts who are licensed counselors in school settings.

"It's going to be a great program," Maglio said. "We have a lot of really interesting people that are going to be teaching with me. The need is really, really out there for school counselors, and we're going to fill a great need by doing that. We had so many people asking for us to bring

[the program] back."

Masters in Leadership

Candy Young, professor of political science, is one of the faculty working on a leadership master's program. She said the University has been talking for several years about trying to be more intentional in its efforts to enhance leadership.

"One of the things that we wanted to try to do was to think about what type of graduate program we could put in place that would extend student's leadership experience and opportunities ... and that would provide opportunities for students from all backgrounds," Young said.

A needs assessment was sent to seniors, and the results showed a high demand for a leadership graduate degree. Young said the program is intended to include about 20 students.

She said the program is not geared toward any particular discipline but is based heavily in a liberal arts and science mentality. The leadership program is still in the early stages of the governance process and still needs to go through campus governance and be sent to the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

"We would like to think it can be up and running by fall," Young said. "That's the goal. But these things sort of have a life of their own."

She said the program would combine an internship with a common core of classes, such as organizational, interpersonal, communication and personal leadership, as well as classes in an area of specialization that the student and their adviser create. Young said students completing this program could go on to pursue careers in fields such as educational policy, nonprofit organizations, teaching or city management.

Masters in Professional Science

Jon Beck, associate professor of computer science, is one of the professors crafting the professional science graduate program. He said a professional science degree is an emerging alternative to traditional scientific master's programs because it is a terminal degree and does not

include the expectation of continuing into a doctorate program.

"It is focused on people who do not necessarily want to continue on for a Ph.D. and enter an academic career, but rather want to enter a career in traditional industry," Beck said. "It's appropriate for kind of modern, high-tech industries — pharmaceuticals, bioinformatics fields, engineering — those types of fields."

Beck said the first professional science degree Truman will pursue is in bioscience informatics. It is targeted at biotechnology industries, represented by companies such as Monsanto and Pioneer, that produce genetically modified seed for commercial crops.

"[Monsanto and Pioneer] recruit heavily among our graduates because they need the top talent to keep their employment pool just at the cutting edge," Beck said. "They have both indicated that they would be very interested in helping, in being partners with this program."

The professional science degree would include classes in genetics, advanced cell biology, bioinformatics, ethics and management. An internship also will be required.

Beck said the National Science Foundation is encouraging professional science programs. Truman has applied for a grant from the NSF through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that would aid the formation of the program. Truman would be the only university in Missouri offering this type of degree.

"So far there is not another single one in Missouri," he said. "It's in high demand and NSF is really pushing it. NSF sees this as one of the key ways for the U.S. to maintain its economic and scientific competitive advantage in the world."

The program potentially will begin in fall 2010.

Faculty concerns

At this point, Truman can offer these programs without hiring new faculty. If the programs become popular, more faculty may be needed.

"If they are wildly successful, and they attract a lot of students and enrollment increases, and if it creates demand for additional faculty, we will have to go out and hire new faculty," Paino said. "But we want to see what the enrollment looks like before we do that."

"This is really something that gets Truman in the game of graduate programming at a level that we haven't been, which I think is important, both for our students and the school."

"We think it's important to offer opportunities for both students who are here and other students to get those kinds of degrees that will help them be successful in the workforce because ... oftentimes now a bachelor's degree isn't enough"

Troy Paino
Provost

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