

# Truman begins photography minor

BY DANA BROXVOORT  
Staff Reporter

Zoom. Focus. Click. Truman now offers a minor for students interested in photography. The photography minor was approved in November, and the art department will open the minor to students from all majors.

Priya Kambli, an associate professor of art who teaches photography classes, said she's seen a considerable amount of student interest in a photography program. She said she hopes many students will take advantage of the new minor.

"There's always been a demand for it," Kambli said. "I'm glad we can provide something for that demand now."

Kambli said Truman offered a photography major when she began teaching at the University eight years ago, but the major was phased out because of a lack of staffing. The art department now has enough faculty to offer the necessary classes for a minor.

In addition to fulfilling current students' interests, the photography minor could help recruit students who often ask about a pho-

tography program, according to the photography minor proposal.

The requirements for the minor include 15 credit hours including two foundations courses: Drawing I and Design I or Design II. The remaining nine hours include Creative Photography, Digital Photography and a recently approved studio course, Photographing Light. Art majors can count the foundations classes toward both their major and the photography minor.

Kambli said a photography minor is a good opportunity for art majors. Photography skills are useful within the studio art and visual communications majors and expand art majors' options after graduation, according to the photography minor proposal.

"Photo is so expansive, it's vast," Kambli said. "You can apply it in any which way you want. For an art major, it's fantastic because it sort of gives them ... another way of looking at art and another way of making art."

A photography minor can be practical for non-art majors because photography is also applicable in fields other than art, Kambli said. Students who are simply

looking for a creative outlet can utilize the minor as well.

She said photography is a relevant field of study because photos have become a type of vernacular, something that people encounter every day.

"Photo's going through phenomenal changes," Kambli said. "It's going through a digital field right now. ... It's sort of a fun field to be in right now. And it's very contemporary, it's very current. It's something that this new generation is already inundated in — they're already immersed in it."

Junior Chelsea Shelton, a visual communications major, said she is going to complete the photography minor if she has enough time before graduation.

"I think it would just be a really good supplement to my major, plus ... it's a creative, fun outlet," Shelton said.

She said a photography minor also could make her more marketable when she searches for a job after graduation.

"I think it would be definitely a useful skill," Shelton said. "It might put me above the other applicants in my field, so I'm hoping that's what happens."



Krista Goodman/Index

Senior Robert Jones holds his negatives up to the light in photography class to study his photos.

# BulldogNet Mentor Database grows

BY SHIHARA MADUWAGE  
Staff Reporter

Whether it is advice about an internship or deciding on a major, the University Career Center is ready to help students using the BulldogNet Mentor Database.

Career coordinator Elizabeth Bauer said BulldogNet is an on-line program where students can find a mentor to help them with their questions regarding career plans and job opportunities in their chosen field of interest. It is free of charge and students can use it while attending Truman and even after they graduate.

She said this program has been running for more than six or seven years. Students can access the database from the site "Experience," where the Career Center posts job opportunities, internships and job interviews for all Truman students, she said.

"The mentors are basically comprised of mostly alumni and friends of Truman who are interested in helping Truman students with their career," Bauer said. "Basically, we want students to be able to contact these mentors via e-mail, and they can start an e-mail correspondence about whatever questions they may have."

Bauer said students can find mentors according to their major, career choice or even location. She said students can view profiles for each mentor, which provides name and contact information, as well as things they are interested in helping people learn, which allows students to choose a mentor who best suits their needs.

Bauer said BulldogNet is helpful and beneficial for all students, so everyone should take a close look at it.

"[Students] can read about jobs on their Web site or their library books," she said. "But

nothing becomes more real than talking to someone who has had those experiences in their career, and I think it helps make students really confident in their decision to major in something or pursue a particular graduate degree or pursue a particular career."

Bauer said they recently have made changes to BulldogNet. They have included a pre-written networking mentor letter which students can use as a guide if they are not sure how to start the conversation with their mentor.

They also have invited more alumni to be mentors and already have gained positive responses.

"We have over 150 mentors currently, and it is growing," Bauer said.

She said they try to make sure that all major areas are represented. If a student has trouble finding a mentor, he or she should visit the Career Center, where they would try to help the student find someone.

Bauer said that this year, they were really pushing the program and publicizing it in order to encourage more students to use it. They plan to boost interest next semester by sending out e-mails to students about BulldogNet, making announcements on the Truman homepage and handing out fliers and popcorn.

The Career Center currently does not have any student mentors, but Bauer said they were considering providing the opportunity for students to be mentors next semester.

"These mentor relationships are not necessarily going to find you a job," Bauer said. "What they are going to do is help you understand what a job is like, or help you make a decision on if that is the type of industry you want to work in."

Renee Wachter, dean of the School of Business, said she knew the Career Center had the ability to have a database of alumni who

## Searching for Mentors

Use the search box located at the right of the home page to search for mentors by Job Function, Job Title, and/or Industry.

Click Advanced Search for more specific search options. Advanced Search options include:



**Current Employer;**  
**Country;**  
**State/Province;**  
**City of current job;**  
**Academic Information, etc.**

Search results will show the name of each mentor that fits your search criteria along with their occupation, present work address, professional headline, and what kind of guidance they are willing/able to provide.

Click on View Mentor Profile if you wish to know more about a specific mentor.

Send mentor a Connection Request:  
Consider using a pre-written mentor connection request email. The Truman Career Center has created these to help students understand what they should ask their mentors.

Design by Cameron Ballentine/Index

were willing to mentor students, but she also knew that they did not have a large enough database.

"One of our goals here in this School of Business is to get every student connected with a mentor by the time they are starting their junior year," Wachter said. "So we met with [the Career Center] this year to work to expand the number of [alumni] who are captured in that database, so students have more people to connect with."

Wachter said the School of Business specifically is work-

ing with alumni they meet along the way to get them interested in mentoring. She said most of the alumni they meet seem very excited about the idea and wish they had this kind of opportunity while they were in school.

Wachter said many of the mentors involved with this program are professionals and are well-established in their careers. She said it's important for students to have good professional relationships because the job economy is down. "There are not as many op-

portunities for students getting right out of school," Wachter said. "So finding out something like a mentorship program would help them get connected professionally, to help them develop their social networking and professional networking skills."

Senior Elizabeth Piel said she became familiar with BulldogNet because she worked as a career assistant at the Career Center. She has been recommending to students to use this database at work.

Piel used this database her junior year when she wanted to find some biology research opportunities.

"I was contacting people based on where they were working and asked them if they knew of any [opportunities where] I could get into open labs," she said. "I contacted probably three or four [mentors], and they all got back to me."

Piel said a professor at A. T. Still University of Health Sciences was particularly helpful, giving her a list of professors who had openings in their labs at medical schools and their contact information.

"It was very helpful," she said. "I did not know that I could contact the professors over at A. T. Still and that they would have spots open at their labs. I figured it was always going to be for the graduate students and the medical students over at the school, and I did not know that they hired undergraduates."

The Career Center is encouraging graduating seniors to be mentors to get people more involved and aware about the program.

"I think it is valuable for anyone," Piel said. "If you are a senior, it could be very helpful if you are job-searching to find out about openings. If you are younger ... [just] find someone who is working in the field you are interested in and ask them questions to see if it is something you really like to do."

## Attention!

A.T. Still University and Truman State University faculty are teaming up to conduct a research study on women with low back pain and sacroiliac joint pain.

Volunteers with chronic low back or sacroiliac joint pain must be willing to participate for a one hour session that will include a physical exam and some light physical activity tests. Subjects will be compensated \$30.00 for their time and travel.

**To be eligible for the study, you must meet the following criteria:**

- You must be female
- You must be between the ages of 20 and 59
- You must be able to tolerate light exercises (squatting with bent knees, stepping over one stair, standing up from a sitting position, and walking heel to toe for 8 feet)
- Your low back pain or sacroiliac joint pain must be moderate to high
- Your pain symptoms must have been present for 3 months or more
- You must have no history of back surgery

If you meet the above criteria and are interested in being involved with the study, please contact: **Ken Pamperin, Research Support Department, at 626-2444 or via email at kpamperin@atsu.edu to determine further eligibility and for further discussion of the project.**





1155 North Brown Street - La Plata, MO 63549 - 660-332-7337  
Established 2005

~ Gift Certificates Available ~

### Fine Dining OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY

Serving from 11:00am to 3:00pm

*Join us for a homemade Christmas meal.*



*Dinner Salad & Croissant  
Turkey or Ham  
Dressing  
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy  
Peas & Carrots or Green Beans  
Cranberry Sauce  
Dessert*

**Reservations not necessary, but advisable  
660-332-7337**