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All Eyes On: Marty Jayne

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

Not many people can say they have traveled the world, visiting more countries than most could even dream of, while trying hundreds of court cases for the U.S. Air Force. It might sound like something from a new TV court drama, but for Truman professor Marty Jayne, it's his life.

Jayne served 27 years as an Air Force colonel, most of which was spent in the Judge Advocate General's corps as a criminal prosecutor and judge. Jayne was the Air Force's chief prosecutor in Europe. He spent three years based in Germany, traveling across Europe and trying a variety of cases.

Jayne, originally from Kirksville, completed his undergraduate degree at the Air Force Academy. He went on to receive his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his Master of Law from the University of Virginia.

"I'm not sure what I was thinking when I decided to go to the Air Force Academy, but as I got there, law sounded like fun," Jayne said. "My dad was a lawyer in Kirksville, so it had always been in the back of my mind."

Jayne worked in the Air Force for a year before joining the JAG corps. He worked a job at an army defense language base in Monterey Bay, Calif. He said many in the JAG corps go straight in without doing any other military work. Jayne completed three overseas tours with the JAG corps.

"One of the cases I worked hardest on involved a man who stabbed his defense council," Jayne said. "He originally had only drug charges. We were able to convince him he would not be able to win with an insanity plea."

After trying more than 100 cases as a prosecutor, Jayne later presided over about 100 more as a judge from 1991 to 1993.

"I enjoyed being a judge because the intellectual part of the law was still involved without having to be involved in the fight," Jayne said.

Jayne spent 31 years away from his hometown and then returned to Kirksville in 2000 to teach at Truman. Jayne is now the department chair for justice systems. He said there are a lot of similarities between his favorite aspects of the

courtroom and of the classroom.

"Trying to persuade the class to be interested in the materials I'm teaching is a lot like persuading a jury," Jayne said. "However, it's not as competitive as the courtroom, which I like a lot more, since I have never been a very competitive person."

Using examples from his courtroom experiences helps Jayne to keep his students' interest while teaching.

Jayne said he enjoyed the JAG corps because he always was interested more in service and never had to worry about a client's time and how much he would have to bill them. Helping students also is one of his favorite parts about teaching.

"I really like the occasional moments teaching provides when you have the opportunity to help and influence a student," Jayne said.

Michael Pierson, a 2005 Truman graduate, is one of those students Jayne helped guide. Pierson recently received his commission and is a First Lieutenant in the Air Force JAG Corps.

"Professor Jayne inflamed my passion for the law and made it certain that that's what I wanted to do," Pierson said. "He helped get me an internship at UVA at the Center for National Security Law, which opened my eyes."

Pierson said he has two fond memories of Jayne during his Truman days: He always graded on a curve, and he taught using the Socratic Method, which involves asking questions and having the students explain the answers — a method used in most law schools. He said it really helped him get a feel for what law school would be like.

"Professor Jayne has great passion for teaching and for his students and has been there to help me at every turn," Pierson said. "I remember while I was at Truman I would always go swim laps in Pershing at 6 or 6:30 every morning and Professor Jayne would already be in his office working on God knows what. He is very dedicated."

Matthew Sonn, another of Jayne's former students, also graduated Truman in 2005 and is now a member of the Navy JAG corps. He



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Truman professor Marty Jayne served 27 years as an Air Force colonel and traveled around the world trying numerous court cases in the JAG corps.

said Jayne was one of his favorite professors at Truman, and he always enjoyed his classes and hearing about his experiences.

"I had a lot of different stuff going through my head, and talking with him, he really helped solidify my future career path for me," Sonn said.

Scott Woods, another Truman alumnus, is on his way to becoming part of the Army JAG corps. Woods said Jayne alerted him to the existence

of the JAG corps and helped him establish long-term connections for the career he was interested in by helping him get an internship.

"Professor Jayne is a great representation of what different kinds of lawyers the JAG corps are," Woods said. "They are about service and taking care of people, not making money. He represents both the JAG corps and Truman very well."

Local band goes international

BY ANNA MEIER
Staff Reporter

Kirksville rocks. Believe it or not, it's true, and one of Kirksville's very own local bands is taking its sound to an international scale.

Blue Voodoo is a blues band based in Kirksville made up of vocalist B.J. Allen, drummer Derek Daniels, Jerry Fuller on guitar, piano and organ and J.P. Hurd on the bass and harp. The band will be playing at the International Blues Challenge Jan. 21-23 in Memphis, Tenn., competing with more than 100 other bands, 13 of which are from foreign countries, including Argentina, Latvia, Germany and Croatia.

In order to compete in the challenge the band has to be sponsored by a local or regional blues organization, a sponsorship that also had to be won. Blue Voodoo won a smaller blues challenge in Columbia at Mojo's and is now backed by MOBlues.

Allen said the band will be playing on the historic Beale Street in Memphis along with the other 110 bands Jan. 21st and 22nd and hopes to advance to one of the top 10 bands who will play on Jan. 23 in competition for a top-three spot.

"We participated in this event back in 2005 and 2006, and we didn't advance to the finals round either of those times," Allen said. "The level of competition is unbelievable. These bands are like the cream of the crop from all over, so we're really excited to get to go again this year."

Allen said the challenge is the biggest event on the band's plate right now, but it is something they have been working toward for years. They have been together for almost two decades, since the early 1990s, with the same core group of people. The only major change has been the drummer, Daniels, who replaced his father, David, after he had a stroke in February.

"Jerry's the guitar player, ... and he started playing with a previous band, pretty much the same band, different name, different bass player," Derek Daniels said. "Then J.P. Hurd, they've been playing together since '82. Dave's been playing since the creation of dust. I did not start playing with them until February, but I played in other bands previous to going to the military, and then after I got out I didn't really play other than just jamming around, sitting

in with other people's bands."

All of the members come from eclectic musical backgrounds, which has contributed to making the musical stylings of Blue Voodoo contemporary and cool, Daniels said.

"Blue Voodoo has mainly become, not an old traditional style blues band, but kind of an upbeat, funky style," Daniels said. "It's a kind of a rock and funky style blues."

The band hasn't always played the blues, though. Its members have run the gamut when it comes to musical genres.

"We've played oldies to classic rock to country and southern rock, as well as blues, but kind of whatever it takes to get a job," Allen said.

In 2003, the band decided to turn to the blues, Allen said, and has since released four albums: "Red Hot Blues," "The Storm," "Hot Wire (My Heart)" and "Heartless." Allen also said the band has received a great deal of radio play from community and college radio stations across the country, even getting air time on XM Radio.

Their interest in other music has made the band what it is now, with Allen claiming George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn and her own father as musical inspirations. Daniels said he was inspired by artists like Danny Carey, Joe Bonamassa, Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

After trying out so many different types of music, Allen said the band just decided to play what they all liked to play best: the blues.

"I think it's the emotion of the music, whatever that is," Allen said. "If you are blue, if you're sad and you're down, it will just reach in and grab your soul. On the other hand, the blues does not have to be sad or depressing, it can be very fun and funky and can help you lighten your load when everything else seems to be heavy. So to me, it's the way that the music emotionally affects you and speaks to life as we know it in its various stages and phases."

Royce Kallerud, Truman professor and Kirksville music aficionado, has only good things to say about the local band and its recent success in acquiring a wider fan base.

"I think they're great," Kallerud said. "Their singer's great, that really helps, but I also think that they've been playing for a long time, and it seems so obvious, but bands that play a lot figure out how to get really good."

As for the Kirksville music scene in general, Kallerud says Kirksville is actually a great location for bands to play and to build a following.

"I think one of the biggest factors ... is that there aren't 20 shows happening a night or 100 like might be happening in Chicago," Kallerud said. "You get a more diverse audience, and people are more open-minded about what they're seeing. They're not seeing the band whose CD they just bought, necessarily. They're going, and they're not sure what they're going to see, and so they might see a band whose style is a little different than what they're used to. But what happens at shows is, if the band is good, people get really excited."

Kallerud has brought a number of bands from all over the country, and even some from Europe, to Kirksville and has plans to bring what he calls "a legend of early Indie rock" this semester, but he would like to see more people involved in making the music scene here really exciting.

"I think one of the other things that's really great about Kirksville music ... is that anyone who is interested and has a particular kind of music they like and understand they're not going to be a huge band like The Decemberists or something like U2, they can find great music, and they can bring it here," Kallerud said. "I don't think people can do that in most places. The other side of it is that if you have a band in Kirksville you can get into some recording yourself. ... You can build a following that I think is very hard to build elsewhere. That really is great in terms of developing a sound and just getting better as a band and really learning about music."

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Vocalist of Blue Voodoo

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