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Mayank Dhungana/Index

Angie Stutman is a Sodexo employee who works in Barnett Hall. Stutman is known by her customers for having an infectious positive attitude.

All Eyes On: Angie Stutsman

BY JENNIFER LEWIS
Staff Reporter

Sometimes a person does not have to do anything extraordinary to be worthy of attention and appreciation. Sometimes it's good to remember how people can make a difference by being cheerful and friendly to strangers every day. And sometimes it's important to understand how a kind smile and a gentle word could be all it takes to make someone's day much better.

Angie Stutsman, a Sodexo employee in charge of the convenience store in Barnett Hall, is well-known throughout the building because of her ability to be unceasingly amiable toward her customers.

Senior Katie Hinrichs said she frequents the Barnett convenience store in the early hours of the morning and that a smile from Stutsman brightens her day. "She's always so nice," Hinrichs said. "And she's always cheery in the morning."

Sodexo employee Mada Smith stocks the Barnett convenience store with goods. Smith said she greatly appreciates Stutsman's kind nature because she does not always encounter such friendliness during her rounds. "It makes me happy just to see her," Smith said. "She's got a great personality, and I don't mind coming over here. There are some places where it's like 'Golly, do I

have to go over there?' because they don't treat you very well, but she always treats you very well. She's always happy, and she's hard-working. She never calls in sick. She also keeps the store clean."

Cathy Sherrow is the Office Manager of Printing Services located in Barnett Hall. Sherrow said she went to high school with Stutsman but did not get to know her until Stutsman began working at the Barnett convenience store. Sherrow said she notices that Stutsman puts a lot of effort into meeting the needs of the students and staff she serves. "She's very helpful," Sherrow said. "She truly understands that the students are dependent on her and the C-Store. She goes out of her

way to help everybody and to make sure there are things in the store that people want. If somebody asks for a specific product, she tries her best to get it added to the store."

Stutsman has been working at Truman for seven years, beginning in the Student Union Building, then working in the Fair Apartments convenience store and finally moving to the Barnett convenience store when it opened three years ago. Stutsman said that of all the places she has worked at Truman, the Barnett convenience store is her favorite. "I like the staff here," Stutsman said. "They're really good people to work with. The college students are really great over here,

too. You meet people from all over the world. I've met people from China and from Japan. ... I really don't have a least favorite thing about working here. I like my job."

Stutsman is married with three grown sons and one grandson. She is from Brashear, Mo., and lives on a farm where she rents portions of her land to other people so they can use it for growing crops. Horseback riding is one of her favorite pastimes, along with spending time with her grandson.

Stutsman said her friendliness is not just an act — she truly is a happy person. "I just go with the flow," Stutsman said. "You just can't let life get you down."

Local band to play at the Pageant

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

A lone guitar starts to play the first few spindling chords, followed closely by tinkling notes on the piano, and the crowd begins to cheer in one of the most well-known concert venues in St. Louis. For the band Hereafterthis, this is a dream about to come true.

Hereafterthis, started by senior Jeremy Tripp, will play at the Pageant in St. Louis, a venue that has hosted some of the most popular musical acts in the country. The band is booked to appear with three other bands in the Ticketmaster New Music Spotlight Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

"It's been a dream of mine to play at the Pageant since I was 13 and first started going to concerts there," Tripp said. "It's one of the best venues you can play in St. Louis."

Tripp said he contacted as many people as he could about getting booked at the

venue and finally landed on the waiting list. When he finally was contacted to play at the venue, he said he was ecstatic. Tripp said he will be getting 1,500 free tickets to the show, which he will be able to give out to family, friends and fans.

"I don't think I even know 1,500 people, so I'll have plenty to give out," Tripp said.

Hereafterthis began playing together in July 2008. Tripp said he knew he wanted to take a more m e l l o w route with his music and was inspired by bands, such as Straylight Run, with both male and female vocalists.

"I had written a few songs by myself and wanted to put a band together

that could play them," Tripp said. "I found a female pianist and then started building from there."

John Todd is the band's bassist. Tripp knew Todd from a previous band he played with in St. Louis.

"John was great, he helped us sell tickets, and he was always a really dependable friend, so I thought of him when I was looking for members for Hereafterthis," Tripp said.

Hereafterthis went on a two and a half week tour in s u m m e r 2009, playing its way from St. Louis to Chicago, over to New York and down the east coast, ending in Florida. Tripp planned and booked the tour for the band himself.

"It's not something I would do again," Tripp said. "It was very stressful getting us booked at all the venues, so next time I would hire a booking agent or something."

Originally consisting of five members, the band has undergone some changes. Both the pianist and guitarist recently left the band to pursue other personal endeavors, so Hereafterthis had to replace these members for the upcoming concert.

"After losing two of our members we thought about it and decided having two guitarists and a pianist was sort of muddling our sound a little bit," Tripp said. "So rather than replace our guitarist who left, we asked a friend, [senior] Ross Carter, to step in and help as needed, and we plan to now forge ahead as a four piece."

Tripp found a new pianist, freshman Becca Gainey, for the Pageant show by asking around.

"I asked my girlfriend if she knew any one who was a talented singer and

pianist, and right away she mentioned Becca, who is in one of her classes," Tripp said. "I messaged her on Facebook to see if she would be interested, and she said yes."

Currently, Gainey is not a permanent member of the band. However, Tripp said it's possible she could join for good.

Tripp has high hopes for the band, which will be recording its first full-length album this February.

"Every other band I've played with seems to have gotten to a certain point and then just hit a wall, but for whatever reason this one hasn't," Tripp said. "It seems like every time it looks like we might be heading in that direction, something happens, like now with the Pageant and our CD, to set us back on track."

Although Gainey was asked to play the show very recently, she said she was very happy to have been asked.

"It was only a week ago

they contacted me, and I haven't even met Jeremy yet, but I have been listening to their music pretty much non-stop since then," Gainey said.

Gainey, a music major, is used to giving performances, but said she has never done anything like this. She said she doesn't think she will have any difficulty learning the songs in such a short amount of time, and she is excited to have this opportunity.

Todd is also excited about the future of Hereafterthis. Playing the Pageant had been a dream of Todd's since he attended his first concert there at the age of 8, and he said he couldn't believe it when he got the call from Tripp, telling him where their next gig would be. Despite past troubles, Todd is excited about what lies ahead for Hereafterthis.

"We've gone through some problems in the last month, but we've come out on top, and I think there are more exciting things to come," Todd said.

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Jeremy Tripp
Senior

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