

DNA lab seeks funds

BY DANA BRUXVOORT
Staff Reporter

Construction of a local DNA laboratory has hit a funding roadblock.

Human Identification Technologies is an international DNA testing facility based in California. The company officially announced its expansion into Missouri last fall with plans to complete the Kirksville DNA lab in approximately one year, according to a press release.

CEO of HIT Blaine Kern said the company still is committed to completing the lab but is exploring further funding options.

"We're just trying to work on the capital requirements, and once that's done we'll be back in town," Kern said. "We've already spent a lot of time and money and effort to get to the point we're at now, and we're committed to following through."

Kern said the company already has purchased some lab equipment and the building, located at 616 Shepard Ave.

He said that because HIT is a nationally recognized company, the lab also will bring national attention to Kirksville.

"We're definitely going to work with the city to attract other tech-type industries into that area," he said. "I think [the company] has a lot of potential to meet those needs, especially with the infrastructure the schools provide."

Kern said the laboratory will bring jobs to Kirksville that have salaries well above the county and state averages and that the lab will present job opportunities for Truman students who are interested in forensic testing.

"I'm hoping that we can have a very fruitful relationship with Truman State," he said. "Eventually ... we'd like to be able to recruit students coming out of biology and forensic programs out of Truman to man the lab."

Phil Tate, director of job creation for Kirksville Economic



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

The Human Identification Technologies DNA laboratory, located at 616 Shepard Ave., is exploring alternative funding options.

Development, Inc., said the potential collaboration with Truman and A.T. Still University, along with the quality of life in Kirksville, influenced HIT's decision to expand into Kirksville. He said Kirksville was one of the final four communities HIT considered for its new lab.

Tate said funding is the primary factor delaying the project's completion. Because HIT is a private company, all of its funds have been raised through private means.

"All of their funding, so far, has been raised through private capital, through private sources and private investors," Tate said. "It is the model that they used when they built HIT in California. They did it all with all private investment and no debt. And that is the same model that they're trying to follow here."

Tate said one funding source HIT explored is Recovery Zone Bonds, which are part of the National Recovery Act.

The Recovery Zone Bond program was implemented to help local governments obtain financing for economic development projects, according to a U.S. Treasury Department press release.

These bonds were apportioned to county commissions nationwide, and the Adair County Commission allocated \$3.2 million of bonds to the HIT project.

Tate said the bonds are a method of loaning money to companies like HIT, but must be paid back. He said the bonds are issued based on the creditworthiness of the company receiving them, so the taxpayer is at zero risk.

"These are tax-exempt bonds, which means when HIT goes to sell these bonds, the purchasers of them do not have to pay income tax on the interest," Tate said. "So that's an incentive for people to purchase them."

Tate said the lab will be an

asset to Kirksville because it will create up to 100 high-tech job positions that will pay more than \$50,000 a year.

"It's a wonderful source of high-tech jobs," he said. "It's also, because of an intern program that Truman offered to do, a wonderful source of jobs for Truman graduates. Truman also instituted a minor degree in forensics as an incentive."

Tate said he hopes to see the project continue to move forward, especially because the community and the universities have collaborated and invested in the project.

"I think everyone is in agreement that we would really like to see the project go forward," he said. "My hat is off to Mr. Kern, who continues to raise private capital for this and continues to pursue other options such as the Recovery Zone Bonds. I'm sure all of us are hopeful that the project can ultimately succeed."

NEWS | In Brief

Upward bound hosts info session

Upward Bound is having an informational meeting about 2010 spring and summer employment opportunities at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the SUB room 3204. Past mentors and current Truman students will be speaking at the event.

Students speak at Museum

COMM 270 and COMM 170 students will give speeches whose origins range from historical figures to movie characters from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Ruth W. Towne Museum. Approximately 35 students are involved in the project that is organized by communication professor Barry Poynter and sponsored by the Communication Club.

Students can experience Vietnam

Love in Future Tense, the International Student Affairs office, West Campus Suites and the Multicultural Affairs Center will host "Hello Vietnam" at 6 p.m. Sunday in the West Campus Suites Multipurpose Room.

This event will introduce students to Vietnamese culture through food, music and costumes. The meal will include four main dishes, dessert and beverages for \$5 per person.

JINS course travels to New Mexico

Monica Barron will explain "Road Trip as Pedagogy," at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Baldwin Hall 318. The course is a cluster of three courses — ENG 418 Southwest Lit, JINS 315 Nuclear Weapons and any Spanish course — and a spring break trip to Taos, Los Alamos and Santa Fe, N.M. For more information, visit air.truman.edu/roadtrip.

SAB to host blogger, author

Student Activities Board will host Christian Lander as the fall speaker at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Baldwin Auditorium.

Lander is a blogger and best-selling author known for his book "Stuff White People Like." The book is a humorous anthropological study of upper-middle-class white culture and a handbook to succeeding in modern, urban, white society.

Students can pick up their free ticket at the SAB office and the general public can purchase tickets for \$2.

Staff council hosts blood drive

Staff Council will host a blood drive from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 2 in the Georgian Room of the Student Union Building. To sign up for an appointment, visit www.givelife.org. The Staff Council also is bringing back the holiday door-decorating contest. To enter your office or department in the door contest, contact Linda Davenport at lindadav@truman.edu by Nov. 20.

Parking lot scheduled to be closed

The parking lot east of Pershing Building will be closed Nov. 23 until Pershing renovations are completed. River City Construction Company will be fencing off the area. The renovations are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010.

Students place 6th at tournament

Senior Mike McCarthy and junior Spencer Clark, members of the University's Fishing Club, competed in the National Guard Forest L. Wood College Fishing Challenge Oct. 31 to Nov. 1 in Murray, Ky. They placed sixth out of 20 teams.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a resolution Endorsing Freshman Seminar within Future Curricular Models.
- Student Senate passed a resolution endorsing an experiential learning component in future curricular models.

CRIME | Reports

- 11/4 A bicycle was reported stolen from Missouri Hall.
- 11/5 A theft was reported at McClain hall for less than \$500

Jupiter One opens for Spektor

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
Assistant Features Editor

Students will pack Pershing Arena this Saturday to watch pianist and singer-songwriter Regina Spektor perform. But she's not the only talent they'll see.

New York City's Jupiter One will open for Spektor, introducing students to its rock-pop sounds.

The band formed in 2000 when lead guitarist Zac Colwell and lead vocalist K Ishibashi met while working for a traveling circus, according to the band's press release. Later, drummer and former STOMP performer Dave Heilman and bassist Pat Dougherty joined, and the band decided to borrow the name of the spaceship from the 1960s television show, "Lost in Space."

Colwell described Jupiter One as a rock 'n' roll band with dance beats. He said the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, David Bowie and Electric Light Orchestra are inspirations.

"We've been on the road for about a year," Colwell said. "We're listening to a lot of '70s music. I guess we keep up with all the new music if we can, too, but '70s music is good for driving."

Colwell said the band found two albums that they especially enjoyed listening to while touring. Chris Ribando produced both of the albums, and the band asked him to produce their second album, "Sunshower."

Spektor approached Jupiter One and asked them to tour with her. Colwell said Spektor has a dedicated fan base that has been especially receptive to Jupiter's music.



www.cmj.com

New York-based band Jupiter One will open for Regina Spektor on Saturday.

"We're really big fans, so we're glad to see her play every night," Colwell said. "I like to watch the front row from back stage and watch their admiration."

In addition to touring with Spektor, Jupiter One's music has been featured in several different media, including NBC's television show, "Heroes," commercials for Payless ShoeSource and the Madden NFL '08 video game.

"We feel really lucky," Colwell said. "It's real hard to get your name out there. We're lucky that we have people working behind us. It's really flattering to realize that the word's spreading."

The band, which has played more than 100 shows in the last year alone, is no stranger to playing at colleges and universities. Colwell said he looks forward to coming to Truman, but that sometimes the shows aren't publicized enough and he will get e-mails from fans saying they didn't know Jupiter One was playing at their school.

"As far as Regina's tour, her crowd is just all around dedicated so they're going to come whether it's a college or club," he said.

After the tour ends, Colwell said the band plans to return to New York and begin working on their next album.

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