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Steve Russon
Wine Educator

Art Classes |
Kirkville Arts Association offers three art courses for students and residents

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Most of the jewelry people are accustomed to seeing is made with a string or even with a very thin, malleable wire, but Ghosh said the method of jewelry making she will be teaching is very different from that.

“The technique that I’ll be teaching is how you take one or two beads, put a wire through it, and then you wrap the wire around each end of the bead,” she said. “You take another piece of wire with another bead or two, and then you join it with the previous one. So it’s like a link that you use with wire. You use the wire to create links with beads in between, and that’s going to be how they’re held together.”

The jewelry making classes will be 10 a.m. to noon on Nov. 7, 14 and 21. Ghosh said the class is meant for beginners, and students shouldn’t be anxious if they have no experience. Students who would like to hone their already accomplished jewelry making skills are welcome as well.

Russon has been a wine educator for years, but this is his first year teaching classes in Kirkville as he and his wife only recently moved here from California. He already sits on the board of the Kirkville Arts Association, and he said he likes Kirkville very much even though he lived in the beautiful Californian countryside for years.

Russon said he knows more about wine than anybody should ever know, but that doesn’t mean his wine appreciation class is going to be intellectually strenuous.

“It’s not that difficult, so basically the class that I’m teaching is going to teach people how wine is made a little bit, how it’s grown a little bit, why it’s interesting historically and then focus on the kinds of wine there are readily available to us all,” Russon said.

Although there’s no way for him to show a class in Kirkville a comprehensive display of all the variations of wine, he does plan on helping them with their wine selection in the future and giving them as broad a spectrum of wine information as possible.

“There’s 3,000 species of grapes to make wine out of, but we’re never going to see that many here,” he said.

Russon encourages people to take his class even if they know nothing about wine.

“The biggest thing is people have this crazy idea that that somehow wine is beyond them, it’s just too big to understand,” Russon said. “And, in fact, there are, have been for countless centuries, people who drink wine as a beverage every day, enjoy it and don’t even read and write in their own language.”

Parties spark creativity

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

Cowboy hat — check. Plaid shirt — check. Toy guns — double check. Cowboy boots click on the pavement as students get ready to kick back and let loose for the weekend, leaving homework and studying behind for at least one night.

Truman is known for its excellence in academics, but at some point students leave the library to have fun. Parties are a weekend staple, but some take it to the next level and throw a toga or an ugly sweater into the mix.

“Theme parties are a fun chance to be creative and different,” senior Lauren Jacoby said. “It’s nice to be able to let loose and be goofy once in a while instead of having to dress up and look nice.”

Jacoby is the social co-chair for Alpha Sigma Alpha and is in charge of formals and date parties. “Woody,” a western-themed cowgirl and cowboy date party, gives the girls a chance to bring their dates in full country attire for a night of fun and dancing. Jacoby said Woody has been a tradition of Alpha Sigma Alpha for at least 10 years.

“I have an old T-shirt from Woody going back to 1999, but it’s likely it started even before that,” Jacoby said.

Although some themed parties only require a costume, others are far more meticulously planned. Jacoby said her favorite themed party is the Hoosier wedding the Alphas hold every year with the men of Alpha Kappa Lambda. Every year a bride and groom are chosen from their respective organizations, and a faux-wedding is held, hillbilly style, complete with hay bales, country music and cut-off jeans.

“We even have a bachelorette party for the intended



Photo submitted

Fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma hosted luau date party, which entailed guests dressing up in a variety of Hawaiian-inspired clothing.

bride,” Jacoby said. “Last year the girl who was chosen got this huge, ugly old wedding dress from Hidden Treasures, and the bridesmaids dressed up too. Everyone else wears white - trash-like clothes, like cut-off shorts, ripped T-shirts and trucker hats. The AKLs play country music all night, and we just dance and have a good time.”

Jacoby said that around 90 percent of their planned weekend social events include a theme of some sort. With all these different themes, one might think it would get expensive finding so many different costumes, but Jacoby said that wasn’t so. She said \$10 was the most she had ever spent on a costume, and it’s really easy to be creative and find things around the house or from friends that will work. Thrift stores like Hidden Treasures and Salvation Army are an inexpensive resource for cheap costume pieces. Jacoby said they also can

be a great place to find some really outrageous items.

“Between my two roommates and me, we have an entire closet packed with costume supplies that we have accumulated over our years of themed party experiences at Truman,” Jacoby said. “It’s amazing the different ways you can reuse things to fit a new theme. You could probably find a costume for any occasion in that closet.”

Senior Luke Wenger, a member of Sigma Tau Gamma, said his fraternity also plans themes for some of their weekend parties. The annual luau date party is Hawaiian-themed and guests dress up in beach attire for the night. Wenger said his favorite was Sig Tau’s skate date party held at Leisure World for roller-skating. Attendees and their dates dress up as twins, but the couples can dress pretty much in whatever costume they please, Wenger said.

“It’s fun to dress up for parties occasionally,” Wenger said. “I brought

up a bunch of stuff from home that I thought would work for the theme we do regularly, like luau, but I have gotten things from the Salvation Army as well.”

Senior Marvin Bemby also has been to a few themed parties during his time as a Truman student, attending about three to four each year. However, he said he really is more interested in the social aspect of the parties than coming up with a creative costume. Jersey parties, where everyone wears the jersey of their favorite sports team or athlete, as well as the “ugly Christmas sweater” party held by the football team every year, with the guys wearing the ugliest, most embellished Christmas sweaters they can find, are both staples on the Truman party scene, Bemby said.

“Themed parties are fun sometimes to go and see the kinds of crazy things people have come up with for a costume, but once the initial excitement wears off, it’s really just another party,” Bemby said.

Home stands after Civil War

BY SHANNON WALTER
Staff Reporter

White bricks, wrought-iron grating on the windows, a large walnut staircase, original hand-painted wallpaper, wood flooring and other architectural details from the 1800s adorn the house at 415 E. Washington St., which is said to be the oldest house in Kirkville.

Historical records are very unclear about the home’s past, said landlord Steve Willcox. The house was featured in the 1876 Atlas of homes in Adair County, signifying that it had just been built, but Willcox said he was told the house was built in 1863 by George Edward McGovern, a wealthy man who built the home after the Civil War.

The large home is representative of the time period. It was built with details such as an original walnut staircase, ornate molding in the ceilings, original hand-painted wallpaper and a carriage house in the backyard.

The home is about 150 years old, and Willcox said this means he must take extra care of the house so it will be around for another 150 years.

“A big house like this requires lots of repairs so it’s a constant chore to keep it nice,” he said.

Owning and caring for a historic home has been a rewarding experience for Willcox thus far, he said, adding that he has owned the home for 14 years.

“It makes me feel good to know how long it has been here and appreciate the architecture and the fact that it is a very historic home,” he said.

The house’s walls are constructed of 12-

Historical Homes

inch thick brick, Willcox said. There is no air-conditioning, but the thick walls keep the home pretty cool. However, large gas bills plague the tenants in the winter because of the high ceilings and large rooms, Willcox said.

The house is known to most on campus as Alpha Big House because members of the Alpha Sigma Alpha social sorority have rented the house for the last 14 years. Tenant and sophomore Hillary Shou said she is very proud to live in such a historically significant home.

“It’s definitely really cool to say that I live in the oldest house in Kirkville,” Shou said.

She said the old charm of the house is still represented despite the renovations and updates required to support modern living.

“I think the old carriage house definitely shows the age of the house because carriages have obviously not been in use for years,” Shou said.

Rumors of ghosts have been spread among the tenants for years, and Shou said a few of the current and previous tenants have had unpleasant experiences with ghosts.

“There’s always been ghost stories about the house, but I didn’t really believe them,” Shou said. “Sometimes it creaks, lights flicker, we’ve had appliances turn on and off. In the past, girls have come home to find all the

windows open. Obviously, we’ve never seen a ghost before, and I hope we never do, but some of these things I accepted because of the age of the house.”

Tenant and junior Cassie Beard said that she thinks the ghost in her room means no harm so she is not bothered or frightened by the random occurrences.

“Well some of us believe in them, and some of us don’t, but I think my ghost is friendly,” she said. “She knocks stuff off of my walls sometimes, but there have been no real problems.”

The girls speculate that Beard’s room used to be the formal dining room for the house. A past tenant painted it bright pink, but it has retained its old charm with a fireplace and an original painted medallion above her ceiling fan.

“I think my room used to be a living room or dining room because it has a hallway that leads to the kitchen, an odd closet and a bathroom,” she said.

Tenant and sophomore Rachel Kuehn said her room exemplifies the age of the home. There is a kitchen on each floor, and many of the rooms have been adjusted from the original use just as Beard’s was to provide more bedrooms as a rental home.

“My room used to be a parlor, and it has this really old wallpaper on the walls that is hand painted and embroidered,” Kuehn said. “I’m pretty sure it’s original because it is very old fashioned and really faded.”

For now, all the tenants agree that living in the house, although it is old and a bit scary, is a college experience they wouldn’t trade.

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