

Study Missouri brings the state 10,000 international students

BY DANA BRUXVOORT
Staff Reporter

Senior Navini Jayasinghe might be halfway around the world from her family in Sri Lanka, but to her and more than 10,000 other international students, Missouri has become home.

"I don't feel like I'm an international student," she said. "I feel like I've been here all my life."

Study Missouri, a new consortium of Missouri educational institutions, was formed this summer. It works to promote Missouri to international students and draw more students like Jayasinghe to the state.

Kathy Love, a public information officer for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, said Study Missouri was organized in an effort to help Missouri institutions pool their resources to recruit international students.

She said a survey sent to current international students in Missouri revealed the top five reasons they listed for coming to Missouri were a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, low cost of living, spacious campuses, diversity and a safe environment.

Missouri ranked 17th among the states in the number of international students living here, according to the Open Doors report on international educational exchange.

At Truman there are 287 international students representing 43 countries. More than 100 students are from Nepal. China and Vietnam are the next most represented countries.

Melanee Crist, assistant director for international education, said Truman will be working with the Study Missouri program to promote the state to international students.

She said bringing international students to Missouri has an obvious economic impact on the state. International students' expenditures reached an estimated \$237.8 million in 2008, according to the Open Doors report.

Crist said that having international students on campus exposes American students to different cultures and ideas and prepares students to work in a global economy.

"For Truman, I think it's the educational aspect that it adds to the classroom — it's the different perspective from the typical American perspective," she said.

This is Truman's fourth year of actively recruiting abroad, Crist said. She said international recruitment can be a compli-



Navini Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka said she came to Truman because a representative came to her community college.

cated and competitive process. Recruitment tactics must be adapted to different cultures and different values.

She said recruitment begins with building name recognition abroad. Crist or others from the International Students Affairs Office travel to countries to begin establishing relationships.

Recruitment tactics involve partnering with educational institutions in other countries, using current international students to promote Truman and initiating contact with educational advisers abroad.

She said rankings are even more important in other countries, so Truman's high rankings play an important role in international recruitment.

"When I recruit, this is what I sell: I sell Truman as a top school — the best quality education," Crist said. "And that the price is really affordable — not just in tuition, but living in the Midwest is much less expensive than living on the East or West Coast."

She said that in addition to high rankings and affordability, international students at Truman value their interactions with faculty and other students.

"What Truman offers [to international students] is what it offers to American students," Crist said. "And what international students talk about is the personal attention."

... Every comment I read from an international student talks about how faculty really wants to know them, you get to participate

in class. You feel wanted and needed."

Crist said Truman's student organizations, undergraduate research program and scholarship program also draw international students.

Crist said a challenge the International Student Affairs Office faces in recruitment is a lack of knowledge about Missouri and the Midwest. Crist said most international students only hear about the larger U.S. universities.

Jayasinghe said she heard about Truman because the community college at which she was studying in Sri Lanka has a partnership with the University.

She said she also looked at larger universities in the U.S., but chose Truman because it was reputable, offered scholarships and was in a small town with a pleasant environment.

"I had no idea about Missouri, but I just assumed maybe the people are going to be really nice, hospitable," Jayasinghe said. "And, also, it's like a village so that means it's like a small community."

She said the presence of international students on campus can benefit everyone at the University.

"There's so much we can learn from Americans, but at the same time we can give them back something too," Jayasinghe said.

Jayasinghe said she loves the University and the Kirksville community and never has regretted coming to Truman.

"I feel like this is definitely the best decision I've made all my life," she said.

NEWS | In Brief

Foundation scholarship applications

The Truman State University Foundation announced that scholarship applications for the spring 2010 semester are now available. Applications are located in the Center for International Education Office and are due by midnight Nov. 1. To learn more about foundation scholarships visit, secure.truman.edu/isupport-s/.

Athletics Inductions into Hall of fame

The 1998-99 men's Bulldogs basketball team and Gerald Burditt will be inducted into the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 9. The squad advanced to the NCAA Final Four after winning their final eight conference games and three conference tournament games. Members of the squad include regional coach of the year Jack Schrader, assistant coach John Sloop, All-American Cory Parker, Academic All-American Jason Reinberg, Brian Brown, Jason Ramthun, Andy Guethle, Mike Peterson, Jason Ward, Chris Foulk, Spencer Douglas, AJ Crum, Kyle Eagan, Moni Fearn, Dusty Bruner, Donnie Daggett, Peter Aydt and Dan Mailath.

Gerald Burditt was the second-leading scorer for the 1959-60 Bulldogs basketball team that captured the MIAA Championship and advanced to the NCAA small college quarterfinals. Burditt earned first team all-MIAA honors and averaged 15.1 points per game.

Truman Forensics wins at tournament

The Truman Forensics Union participated in the Western Kentucky University and Ohio University tournaments. Sophomore Christian Johns beat 39 other competitors to be named tournament champion in the Lincoln-Douglas debate. Freshman Samantha Jones placed third in Poetry Interpretation, which qualified her for the national tournament at the end of the season. Anyone interested in competing in forensics should contact Kristi Scholten, director of forensics, at kscholten@truman.edu.

Homecoming apparel for sale

The homecoming committee will be selling apparel today and Oct. 9 in the Center for Student Involvement from 8 to 10 a.m. and on the Mall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Apparel also will be available 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 10 at Stokes Stadium. The rain site for Mall sales is the Student Union Building main hallway.

Award nominations forms available

The Center for Student Involvement is accepting nominations of student leaders on campus for the Golden Leadership Award for the month of October. This award recognizes the hard work, leadership skills and dedication of Truman student leaders. The nomination form can be picked up in the CSI or online at csi.truman.edu. The nomination deadline is at 5 p.m. Oct. 14. For additional information contact Amanda Rhodes in the CSI at 660-785-4222 or e-mail at csilead@truman.edu.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a money motion to strike \$1000 dollars from the scholarship committee's budget.
- Student Senate passed a resolution in support of the formation of Harry's garden on campus.

DPS | Reports

- 9/29 A bicycle was reported stolen outside of West Campus Suites.
- 10/4 Freshman Ryan Banning was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 10/3 Sophomore Emily Mack was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 10/1 Freshmen Robert Findeiss was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

County runs out of flu vaccine

BY COLETTE LINTON
Staff Reporter

Adair County clinics are postponing seasonal flu vaccinations as they wait for additional shipments at the Adair County Health Department.

"The shipment will arrive sometime this week, and we will be getting an additional 300 doses between now and Nov. 6," Jim Le Baron, assistant administrator at the Adair County health center, said. "We will continue to service walk-in clinics after the shipment is received. We are getting a limited supply and not [as much as] we ordered."

The health center still has some vaccines but will fulfill its prior commitment made with the R-III schools in the area and provide them with the seasonal flu vaccine, he said. They ordered the vaccines earlier this year and the shipments come in separate intervals. He suggested people meet with their physicians for additional options to treat the flu while they wait.

The Student Health Center received their shipment of the vaccine last week, Brenda Higgins, director of

Flu Vaccine by the Numbers

Shots given at drive-thru clinic: 1,073

Cost of flu vaccine at health center: \$20

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ordered more than 40 million vaccines

Design by Cameron Ballentine/Index

the health center, said. Walk-in clinics are for students and fees can be charged to student accounts.

During the flu season there is a higher demand for the influenza vaccine, exemplified by the Adair County health center's drive-thru flu clinic that serviced 1,073 Kirksville residents.

During the course of this year the Adair County Health Department administered approximately 4,000 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine, Claudine Frazier, Adair County health administrator, said.

"The vaccine was available so much earlier [in the year] but people got it later and this caused a shortage," Jeannie Ruth, bureau chief immunization assessment and insurance for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, said. "The usual peak [of people contracting the seasonal flu] is in February, and just because you [receive the shot] in November or December means you'll still have it in time when February comes."

Manufacturing decisions were being made simultaneously as

the H1N1 vaccine was being produced, Ruth said. Every year manufacturers including Merck & Co., Novartis, Sanofi Pasteur, GlaxoSmithKline and MedImmune decide which three strains of influenza will be included in the seasonal flu vaccine.

The H1N1 vaccine had taken production priority earlier in the year creating the current delay for the flu shot.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) placed an order for an additional 29 million doses of live attenuated influenza vaccine against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, according to a Sept. 21 MedImmune press release. HHS orders have now reached more than 40 million vaccine doses with a cumulative contract value of approximately \$453 million.

"They [Manufacturers] had to culture things, and then H1N1 hit," Ruth said. "It got a lot of high level political support, and the production of the H1N1 is provided by the government. It is not going to be a long-term shortage, but a delay."

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