

Student creates YouTube sensation

Sophomore's video nabs more than 3 million views

BY KELLY KIESEL
Staff Reporter

What began as sophomore Rizwan Mahmood singing in the library became Indian-style singing sensation in YouTube videos that have hit more than 4 million views.

The video phenomenon began with help from Mahmood's friends, sophomores Benjamin Castro and Christopher Prewitt.

Castro said he had thought about uploading videos to YouTube for a while, and after hearing Mahmood sing one day, he thought people would enjoy hearing him. Castro's YouTube account,

named steezWizard, is used to post videos of Mahmood singing popular songs with an Indian accent. The two cover songs posted are Flo Rida's "The Club Can't Handle Me" and Enrique Iglesias' "I Like It."

"We thought it was funny — it was something fun to do and we were curious as to how many other people would like it," Castro said.

Castro said he does the video and sound editing, and that he is shocked at how rapid the views have been.

"I felt that after the first day that we would get a lot of hits, but recently we have gotten over 100,000 views per day in the last four days," Castro said.

Castro said two videos are already posted, and there are plans for more as a surprise to viewers.

Mahmood said he likes do-



Freshman Rizwan Mahmood's YouTube video "Club Can't Handle Me (Indian Style)" has received more than 3 million views since he uploaded it Oct. 30. His other video, "I Like It," has more than 500,000 views.

ing the videos to bring comedic relief to stressed students.

"It's just fun as a whole, because you get to goof around and randomly add new things to do while you're filming," Mahmood said.

Mahmood said it is overwhelming how quickly the vid-

eos' popularity is spreading.

Word now has reached across campus and students have begun to pass the links around. Sophomore Sarah Trosen was the first viewer of the video before it was put on YouTube.

Trosen said Mahmood

normally does not have an Indian accent, and that it is all for fun.

"This is not the normal Rizwan that you would see in classes or at the dining hall," Trosen said. "He acts like a goofball in his video, but he is one of the best

guys I know."

Junior Cori McGrath saw the videos through a link on Facebook.

"You can tell he is just having fun in the videos, and it seems like a perfect way to take a break from school-work," McGrath said.

Students reach professional sports level

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
Staff Reporter

At the intersection of passion and talent, most students find a career. However, some Truman students find themselves at a crossroads with multiple career options ahead of them.

Senior Spencer Clark has the talent necessary to become a professional competitive fisherman but is choosing to wait and gain more experience before pursuing fishing as a career.

Clark's interest in fishing began when he was four years old. He was on a golfing trip with his grandfather when he saw a man fishing for catfish in one of the ponds at the course.

"From that day on, I wanted to fish," Clark said.

Clark fishes alongside Truman alumnus Mike McCarthy. McCarthy and Clark followed their passion for fishing in college by founding Truman's Fishing Club in October 2007.

The club's eight members compete in eight to nine college tournaments each year in the National Guard FLW college fishing tour.

Clark fishes individually in 20 competitions a year. Competitions range from one to three days, and at the end of each day, fishermen weigh in their catch. The fisherman with the largest total weight wins. Clark has traveled across the nation, fishing everywhere from Kentucky to Michigan.

"Probably the coolest experience, though, was going to Detroit and fishing in the Detroit River because it's so different from anything we have here," Clark said.

Last year, the club qualified for the regional championship. McCarthy said the team placed second in the regional championships this year, winning \$25,000 and qualifying for nationals alongside 24 other teams.



Truman alumnus Mike McCarthy and senior Spencer Clark, founders of Truman's Fishing Club, cast their lines into Spur Pond. The team won \$25,000 this year at the regional championships.

Clark and McCarthy have advanced to a point where they could become professional fishermen, making fishing their sole income. As professionals, they would fish in the bass master elite series or the FLW tour. However, both are choosing to pursue other passions at this time.

For Clark, it's a matter of timing. To become a professional, Clark said you need to have sponsors and financial backing.

"Being in college, money's a hard thing to come by," Clark said. "It's typically around \$100,000 a year to pay your entry fees."

Clark said the lofty cost of professional fishing is only one of the reasons he will wait to pursue a professional career in fishing. He also

wants to gain more experience.

"A lot of guys will go pro at a really young age and they have the talent to do it, but they don't have quite enough experience," Clark said. "I think if you go pro right away you can miss out on learning a lot of stuff that would've helped you at that level."

"I want to go pro in fishing but I want to make sure that I do it in a way without taking on a huge risk."

For McCarthy, a combination of money, time and travel commitments has helped him to decide to take a less serious route than professional fishing.

"I would love to be a professional fisherman, but there [is] so much of a time and travel commitment that I will probably take a lesser road," Mc-

Carthy said.

Although McCarthy plans to get married in June and work for a private accounting company, he still intends to continue fishing in local tournaments on the weekends.

Non-degree seeking student Sydney Young also began a professional career before graduating college. Her first career was as a professional ballet dancer almost four years ago. She began her second career last August by graduating from Truman with a bachelor's degree in Physiology and Exercise Science.

Young began dancing when she was six years old at Dance Arts in Columbia, Mo. She took classes in jazz and tap, but ballet quickly became her focus.

When she was 10, she began competitive dance to give her more chances to perform. When she was 12, she began studying at the Columbia Performing Arts Center. At the age of 14, she decided that she wanted to pursue a career in dance.

"When I was a teenager, I couldn't see myself doing anything else," Young said. "Nothing held my attention like dance did."

When Young was a junior in high school, Lucy Ballard, one of Young's choreographers at the Columbia Performing Arts Center, offered Young a job as a dancer in her new troupe, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet.

Young moved on her own from Missouri to attend North Carolina School of the Arts, one of the top performing schools in the nation, for her senior year.

When Young graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts, she was one of five dancers from her graduating class who got a job. She moved to New York and took the job Ballard offered her.

The regiment of dancing from nine in the morning until seven at night, coupled with the weight of being the youngest dancer in the troupe and persistent injuries in her back and ankle, made her finally give up her professional dancing career.

After dancing with the professional company a little more than a year, Young came to Truman at the age of 19.

Young still dances at Truman through TSODA, and this semester she choreographed for the advanced ballet class.

"TSODA has been a great outlet to continue my performance and share my love of dance," Young said.

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