



Sondra Langley/Index

Nolan plans to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in sustainable development. He owns TrumaScape, a landscaping company he started his freshman year as a way to make some extra cash.

Senior works as entrepreneur and sustainability liaison

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John Nolan, in a word, is busy. Nolan, a senior preparing to graduate with a bachelor's degree in sustainable development, is the chairman of the Environmental Affairs Committee for Student Senate, the student representative for President Troy Paino's Sustainability Action Committee and the lead student on the Sustainability Auditing Program.

Basically, all those titles make Nolan a key player in Truman's quest toward sustainability. He's co-coordinating Earth Week and Eco Olympics, two programs promoting sustainability. "We're trying to change the culture here on campus, especially for the young people, the people in the residence halls," he said. "If we can get them thinking that Truman is sustainability, as they grow up they're going to be more involved with that movement." Figuring out how to bring sustainability to the University, but also making it profitable, is his biggest focus, he said. He's working to find a new buyer for the

Recycling Center that potentially could make 1,000 percent more profit than what the center is making now. Instating human-generated power in the Student Recreation Center, where the manpower generated from the machines would create electricity, is another of his potential projects. But making Truman more sustainable isn't all he's up to. Nolan started his Truman career on a football scholarship, and played for two and a half years before a knee injury took him out of the game. His freshman year, he and a friend started a company to make some extra money. Nolan and his friends

All Eyes On: John Nolan

distributed more than 2,000 flyers to mailboxes around Kirksville, not knowing it is illegal to not use postage. The post office picked up more than 1,000 of them, but coincidentally, he said, the right person found one and gave them a call with a landscaping job. Since then, the company has grown, and today, TrumaScape LLC is a \$250,000 a year business, with clients across the state.

One of his first clients was Paino, shortly after he moved into town. Paino called TrumaScape for a landscaping job, and has since worked with Nolan extensively to promote sustainability.

"You can just tell he's someone who's very passionate about what he believes in and he really wants to make a difference in his environment, where he works and in the lives of the people he works with," Paino said. "I think we've been very fortunate to have him here as a student."

a networking website he described as "similar to Facebook, but we think it's a step past Facebook." The site, he said, will help users connect with local businesses such as restaurants and bars, and manage their social lives in addition to receiving notifications about drink specials, happy hours and locations. Nolan and two other Truman students, a recent Truman graduate and a Washington University-St. Louis student plan to launch the beta site later this year.

But Nolan finds some time for fun, too. Hanging out with his core group of friends — his "Extreme Friends" — helps him relax. He enjoys abstract art, traveling and going out, he said, which he jokingly called "market research," for the upcoming website.

"I'm just passionate about life," he said. "I love living, I love working out, being active, things like that." In the next few months, Nolan will begin sorting out his plans post-graduation.

He is contemplating selling TrumaScape, but said he might keep it for a while. The website will need a lot of work, and he's also talked with a new environmentally conscious hotel chain about working as a consultant. He might even return to his hometown in Joplin, Mo. It's great to have options, Nolan said, but it's tricky, and he's not sure yet what he'll do.

Michael Kelrick, director of interdisciplinary studies, began working with Nolan when the student approached him about becoming an interdisciplinary studies major. Already a junior, Nolan was late in the game to enter such a strenuous program, Kelrick said. But Nolan was determined and proved to Kelrick he was dedicated. Later, when Kelrick brought the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System to Truman, he asked Nolan to assist with the program. Kelrick said he has been impressed with how well Nolan has stood up to the task.

"[He's] smart, entrepreneurial, a good sense of humor, easy to work with..." Kelrick said. "I wish he weren't leaving. I would love to continue working with him on all kinds of things. He's a very, very capable person and he's a great guy."

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John Nolan
senior

'Walk where Truman walked'

Students study University's namesake: Harry S. Truman

BY AMANDA HERZBERG
Staff Reporter

Truman State University was named in honor of former President Harry S. Truman, but how many students really know who Truman was? They might know he was responsible for ordering the atomic bomb during World War II, and the last president to have never attended college. For most, their knowledge of Truman ends right about there. Shouldn't students know more about their presidential namesake? History professor Jeff Gall thinks so. It was this belief that moved Gall to create a class with the sole purpose of exploring Harry Truman's life, appropriately named Life and Times of Harry S. Truman. While this was his motivation for creating the class, his inspiration was multi-dimensional.

For one, Gall grew up in Independence, Mo., sharing a birthplace with the president. He said he was raised learning about Truman. As he spoke of his upbringing, Gall removed a box set of three large, worn and slightly yellowed books — Truman's memoir collection, a Christmas gift he received at age 13, and one of many Truman-related books lining his office shelves. In addition to his childhood appreciation for the former president, Gall has observed a lessening focus on understanding Truman since the years immediately following the school's name change in 1996.

"I think in the past several years

we've kind of lost the opportunity to make Truman's life and legacy a focus for students around here," Gall said.

But he noticed excitement among students surrounding the topic in his Missouri history classes despite their not having much prior knowledge about Truman. He was struck by the remarkable enthusiasm of those wanting to know more. He was further compelled to action when a friend and colleague of his retired as director of the James Madison Center at James Madison University, a center devoted to informing students of the university about Madison and his life. It was Gall's goal, with this example in mind, to take a piece of what James Madison University had created and bring it to Truman, which prompted the class's creation.

The course is not only about Truman's life, but about the time in which he lived. Gall's enthusiasm is obvious as he describes the course curriculum. One element of the course highlighted by Gall is a weekend class trip to Independence. The class will "walk where Truman walked," as Gall phrased it, and visit the presidential library, as well as other historical sites.

Junior Laura Lusk said she enrolled in the class ultimately because it appealed to her interest in the particular time period that it is set to cover. She did not have a wide basis of knowledge about Harry Truman either, which she anticipates will only add to her classroom experience.



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Jeff Gall addresses the Life and Times of Harry S. Truman class about various WWI songs Monday.

"The first day of class, Dr. Gall asked us like, ok I want you to say your name and then I want you to say something about Truman, and I was like 'Oh my gosh, I don't, I don't know,'" Lusk said.

Although a select few around her knew a bit more about Truman, spouting random facts, Lusk said she did not feel alone. She said she is taking in as much as she can from the class and has learned a great deal thus far.

Senior Emily Gentemann, another student in the class, said she took it to fulfill a final U.S. History requirement, but also spoke about having a definite interest in the Truman era, as well as his life.

"I think it's really important, with Truman being our namesake that people know about him," Gentemann said. "And I think that's something that Truman State is lacking is a general knowledge of Harry S. Truman and why we're

named after him other than, oh, he lived in Missouri."

Gentemann admitted to not having much prior knowledge about Truman upon entering into the class, but she said she thinks it will help to build a necessary level of respect for Truman by exploring who he really was — this all in addition, of course, to the field trip.

"I'm so excited!" Gall said, "Who goes on a field trip in college?"

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