



Boutique tailors to customers' needs

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
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Tamara Brown is a creator.

The owner of Tamara's Studio sews, designs, dyes, arranges flowers, bakes, monograms and paints. And, primarily, she tailors.

Brown began her career 28 years ago, working as a bridal gown seamstress. She originally wanted to become a fashion designer but knew she would have to move to New York City to be successful. About 18 years ago, she opened a store near the Square and extended her services to include tailoring. When her husband built a garage onto their house, she asked him to turn it into her studio space and store.

That was almost seven years ago, and Tamara's Studio still thrives. The front of the store, located at 416 S. Bradford St., is lined with Brown's creations, while the back is the tailor shop, where Brown said she keeps busy hemming pants, sewing buttons and mending rips.

"With the shop in front, I want it to be a quaint little shop that ladies like to come into, but yet guys feel comfortable enough [to]

bring in a pair of jeans to be hemmed," Brown said.

Almost everything in the store comes with a Tamara's Studio tag, from the scarves Brown hand-dyes using environmentally friendly Shibori dyeing techniques to the latte mixes and homemade caramels. Shelves are filled with hats, pillows and fat quarters for quilting. Aprons, scarves, hats and hair-bows hang from wall hooks.

But what really sells, Brown said, are her purses. Brown designs and creates an original line of handbags, called Purse Priss. They range from small handbags to large totes, polka-dotted to striped, black and white to rainbow. It's the purses she really has fun with, Brown said, and she loves designing them. Right now all of the bags are on sale as she prepares to launch her new collection in January.

Although Brown's passion is her purses, her tailoring skills pay the bills. While other local tailors might take months to fix things, Brown said she offers a one-week turnaround.

"Once you get a tailor, you'll buy something and say, 'Oh I want it fitted right,'" she said. "Even kids will say, 'Mom, bring this to Tamara

to get fixed."

Kirksville resident Lowell Miller has brought his shirts to Tamara's for hemming for two years.

"I like the friendly atmosphere here and good service," he said. "Tamara does what I want her to do."

Senior Anna Youngyeun, a fiber arts major, has worked at Tamara's Studio for three years, assisting with computer work, helping with the steps of sewing and preparing the items that Brown tailors. Youngyeun said Brown's honesty makes her a great boss and business owner.

"All the things she makes or that she buys from market, she tests out for herself first," Youngyeun said. "That keeps her honest about her products."

Youngyeun said she enjoys working for Tamara because she likes supporting local artists, as opposed to working for large corporations. Even though Youngyeun is a fiber arts major, she said the store is a great learning facility and that Brown has taught her a lot about making clothes.

"The things that she makes are really well-made and she definitely has a certain style that appeals to a lot of people," she said.



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index

Tamara's Studio owner Tamara Brown sews a zipper onto a coat in the back of her shop. Brown also sells handmade purses, aprons, hats and scarves at her boutique.



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index

Senior Deepak Bokati hits a tennis ball on the Quad while practicing cricket with some friends. Cricket is one of several sports new to Truman.

New sports invade campus

Students play cricket, participate in fishing and bowling clubs

BY ALEX CARLSON
Staff Reporter

Hook shank. Turkey triple. Leg before wicket.

What might sound like random words actually are important terms used in some of Truman's more obscure sports. While sports like football and basketball are a main part of Truman's sports repertoire, other students have chosen alternative ways to be active. Some might not think of fishing, bowling and cricket as college sports, but that's what a handful of Truman students are aiming to change.

Fishing Club

Frigid air passing across one's lips, a mist-bathed reflection in the lake, the quiet rush of rippling water echoing nearby: Truman's Fishing Club has felt it, seen it and heard it.

Senior Spencer Clark of Truman's Fishing Club began fishing as a kid and since has become a serious competitor in the field, earning cash prizes and even appearing on ESPN2 during competitions. Clark said stamina and endurance are important when fishing.

"Fishing is a unique sport in that you can't really see what you're after so much," Clark said. "The fish are under the water, so a lot of it comes down to decision-making and mental toughness. You have to

be able to endure the conditions, the weather. Fishing tournaments are eight hours long and you might fish three days straight, so it takes a little bit of endurance and stamina, especially if you have the mental toughness to do it."

On Nov. 6, Clark and senior Mike McCarthy won \$25,000 for their second-place win at a fishing competition in Indiana after catching 11 bass in 3 days.

Bowling Club

The moment when the massive ball rolls down the lane and collides into an explosion of pins, cheers and high-fives are only the beginning of Truman Bowling Club's endeavors. Junior Mason Einspahr started one of Truman's newest sport organizations last spring — the Truman Bowling Club. Einspahr has been bowling since he was a child and said he hopes to spread his love of the sport to other Truman students.

"Freshman year, I lived in Ryle Hall, and I could never get my hall housemates to go bowling with me, ever," Einspahr said. "So I was just like 'All right, I'm going to start a club to see who likes to bowl and who wants to bowl as often as we do.'"

Einspahr said bowling is a sport anyone can enjoy, regardless of age.

"It's a very laid-back sport," Einspahr said. "The majority of it is just a way you can hang out with friends, and bowling is an added bonus. It's a very social sport."

Cricket

While bowling might be associated with the lanes, other stu-

dents at Truman perform a different kind of bowling when playing another obscure sport: cricket.

Junior Modastas Roshitha Perera plays the originally British sport of cricket with his friends and colleagues in his spare time. Originating in Europe and spreading throughout Sri Lanka, India and Australia, cricket is now a popular sport worldwide. Despite not having a formal cricket organization or official equipment, Perera said cricket is a "fashion," instead of just a sport.

"You have to have timing to play," Perera said. "The ball is going to bounce, and you have to have really good practice to play cricket. It's all about technique. It's a gentleman's game — that's how the British call it."

Perera and his fellow participants want to form an official club so that the sport's appeal can spread across campus.

"In Truman, we have the Quad area, so it's a nice place to play cricket," Perera said. "But the problem is we only have the summer and the fall, so we are limited to that. If not, we should have a good cricket team over here. But right now, we are going to talk to the Rec Center and try to get the indoor soccer ground so we can practice, at least, in the winter."

The "pigskin" and the "slam-dunk" are prolific terms for Truman sports, but as more obscure sports become popular at Truman, be prepared to hear "float," "split" or "square drive" being tossed around at the lunch tables.



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