

Professor designs Truman app

BY KAITLIN DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Last week, Apple released the TruTouch application for the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad in the iTunes App Store, which might prove helpful to the Truman community.

Chad Mohler, professor of philosophy and religion, developed TruTouch for Truman so students, faculty and alumni can have information about the University at their fingertips. TruTouch's features include the ability to find people on campus and contact them, search Pickler Memorial Library, check the weather for Kirksville, read the Index, Truman Today and Truman Review, navigate the campus with a map and even look up campus events by date and time.

During his 2008-09 sabbatical, Mohler decided to combine his love of technology and teaching to give back to Truman for granting him a year for philosophy research.

Mohler said he has always had an interest in technology, but his main passion in life is teaching.

"I felt if I could bring those two interests together in a way that maybe would help students, faculty and alumni at Truman, then that would be a really great thing," Mohler said.

Mohler said TruTouch is free for everyone. The more distant branches of the Truman community, such as alumni, students studying abroad or prospective students, will not be excluded.

Mohler said TruTouch took approximately two years to complete and be made available in the iTunes App store.

Mohler said he did not have any help in creating the application, just the University's consent to create it. He said this was not his first time creating an app.

"I did some early applications that were fairly simple," Mohler said. "Tile matching applications, ABCs, 123s and things like that for elementary school children or toddlers."

Mohler said Apple has a developer's program that he had to join in order to create applications that will be featured in the App Store.

He said the program costs \$100 a year, which he paid for out of pocket.

Mohler said the two parts of creating an application are designing its visible parts and designing the code required for certain features to access the Internet.

He said the most time-consuming part of the process is taking the design graphics and getting them to match up with codes so the application can function properly.

"Most of my time was spent in the 'underlying' work, but you have to make sure it has a good graphical interface too, so people will want to use it," Mohler said.

He said after he completed his application, he submitted it to Apple.

"They have specific design guidelines you have to meet," Mohler said. "It has to have a



The new TruTouch application allows the Truman community to access information about the University from their mobile devices.

uniform design interface that isn't going to confuse people and doesn't have content that is objectionable."

Mohler said Apple also reviews the application to make sure it isn't going to crash very often. He said that after Apple did enough tests, he received notice that his application would be featured in the App Store.

Mohler said that as of right now, he has no definite plans for future applications.

"I'd like to continue in the teaching theme [for applications], but I do not have any immediate plans," Mohler said. "But I would like to continue to maintain and improve TruTouch, especially in response to user feedback."

Freshman Jeff Pircher said TruTouch seems well devised and that the contents of the application are very useful.

"I really like how I could see where my professors' offices were," Pircher said. "Also,

I could find books at the Library without having to go to a computer and look them up in the card catalogue."

Pircher said the only aspect he didn't like about TruTouch was that it did not include professors' office hours. He said he would like to see that feature added in the future. Pircher said he would recommend this application to anyone who might need information on the go.

Junior Ali Coats said TruTouch has an overall professional design and is easy to navigate. Along with Pircher, Coats said her favorite part of the application was the ability to find her professors' offices.

Coats said there was not any particular aspect of TruTouch that she did not like and that she does not have any recommendations for revisions on the application. She said she liked that it was free to download and that she would recommend it to her friends.

NEWS | In Brief

ROTC win brings home gold medal

Truman's ROTC Ranger Challenge team won the third ROTC Brigade Ranger Challenge on Oct. 9 at Ft. Leonard Wood. The team beat out larger schools such as Missouri State University, University of Missouri-Columbia and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Earlier this month, five ROTC members were nationally ranked as distinguished military graduates. Two of those members, senior David Atkinson and junior Josh Dilday, were ranked within the top 10 percent nationwide.

International Idol to take the stage

Truman's international students will compete for the title of International Idol at 6 p.m. Saturday in Baldwin Auditorium. Performances will include award-winning dance groups, a drama team and music groups. Acts will include performers from Africa, Japan, India, Nepal, Vietnam and Korea. The event is hosted by the International Club, and admission is free.

Corn maze offers "Field of Screams"

"Field of Screams," a haunted corn maze, takes place from 7 to 10 p.m. tonight, 8 to 10 p.m. Friday, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the University Farm. Admission is \$5 for general admission or \$3 with a Truman ID. Tonight only, attendees can bring a canned or non-perishable food item to donate to the Adair County Food Pantry to receive a dollar off the price of admission. The event is sponsored by Sigma Alpha.

Colloquium to address food crisis

The Global Issues Colloquium will address the global food crisis at 7 p.m. tonight in Magruder Hall 2001. Bill Heffernan of the University of Missouri will discuss issues including corporate agriculture and food quality. The event is sponsored by the Global Issues Committee.

WGST conference to be held

The Women and Gender Studies program will present the annual Women and Gender Studies Conference from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Friday in Violette Hall 1000. Presentations will focus on the theme, "Composing Women." The event is also sponsored by the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Department of English and Linguistics.

GlobeMed presents Fall Harvest

GlobeMed will offer chili and hot apple cider for \$3 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday on the Quad. Proceeds will contribute to funding for a birthing clinic in Haiti.

New music festival to showcase talent

The 2010 Truman State University New Music Festival will take place at 7:30 p.m. tonight and from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Friday in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Guest composer Cary Boyce, an award-winning composer of music for film, television and concerts, will premiere his new composition "There Will Be Rest" at the performance tonight. Truman students will perform at both events, and guest performers from the University of Wisconsin will perform on Friday. The festival is sponsored by the Department of Music, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Sigma Alpha Iota and the Mostly Live Composers Society.

K-REDI pledges for dentistry school

Kirksville Regional Economic Development Inc. pledged \$100,000 on Oct. 22 toward the effort to attract an A. T. Still dentistry school to Kirksville. The city is competing with locations such as San Diego and Orlando, Fla. for the site of the dentistry school, which could bring an estimated \$98 million economic boost to the city, as reported in the Oct. 14 issue of the Index. A committee has been formed that aims to raise \$1 million to attract the school to Kirksville.

Crime | Reports

10/11 A theft of under \$500 was reported in Centennial Hall.

10/15 A theft of under \$500 was reported in the parking lot west of Centennial Hall.

10/16 A theft of under \$500 was reported in West Campus Suites.

10/18 A theft of under \$500 was reported in the parking lot southwest of Centennial Hall.

10/18 A bicycle was reported stolen outside of McClain Hall.

Wal-Mart plans for local produce

BY REBECCA SMITH
Staff Reporter

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. plans to increase the amount of local produce sold in its stores globally, including the local Kirksville Supercenter.

The Kirksville Supercenter will sell local produce which will benefit the local economy and community, but each farm involved will have to provide a designated amount of liability insurance on their product.

"The majority of our produce comes through our warehouse in Moberly, from all over the country and some from overseas, but any chance we get we purchase locally," said Doug Nichting, manager of the Kirksville Supercenter.

Nichting said selling produce through Wal-Mart is not as easy as just talking to a manager, because farmers must undergo a formal application process.

"There is a process that is mostly online that farmers have to go through prior to being able to sell with us," Nichting said. "They have to get a certain amount of liability insurance on the product."

Steve Salt, local farmer and owner of the Downtown Grocery Store, said he does not feel threatened by Wal-Mart's new focus on buying locally because he thinks Wal-Mart is simple competition and farmers have to go through a long process to be able to sell

through Wal-Mart.

"Wal-Mart, at one point, was willing to purchase my produce if I purchased a \$2 million liability policy and got workman's compensation for my workers, who were myself, my wife and kids," Salt said.

Wal-Mart requires more than simple liability insurance, according to the Wal-Mart corporate website.

The website lists requirements including purchasing a Supplier Evaluation Report with Dun & Bradstreet, a Dun & Bradstreet D-U-N-S number, a Universal Product Code through the Uniform Code Council company and multiple insurance requirements.

Local suppliers have to obtain commercial general liability including product liability for each occurrence with a \$2 million minimum, according to the website.

Workers' compensation must also be obtained by local suppliers, as well as \$1 million in employers' liability.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., its subsidiaries and affiliates must be listed as additional insured and certificate holder, according to the local suppliers information on the corporate website.

Along with all of these requirements, potential suppliers must complete an online product submission and a supplier questionnaire.

All of these requirements must be pur-

chased, and all costs are the responsibility of the suppliers, according to the website.

Salt said he was also told that Wal-Mart would probably do \$500 worth of business with him a year, which was approximately the cost of the insurance premium.

Even with these demands on farmers, Nichting said, purchasing locally helps the city's economy by keeping business and profits here, but it is also dependent on the number of interested farmers, availability of their produce and the varying growing seasons.

Nichting does not think that Wal-Mart will damage local businesses or the local farmer's market because local businesses are established and are often specialized, having added value products such as jams, honeys and salsas.

Gigi Wuhba, garden manager of Sandhill Farm, located approximately 35 miles northeast of Kirksville, said she hopes that Wal-Mart's increased stock of local produce will serve as a complement to the local farmer's market.

"We are trying to support the farmer's market and other local food sources, so we grow a little extra produce to sell," Wuhba said. "Local food is safer and it keeps the money in the local economy."

Wuhba said she recognizes that people want to personally know their farmers and have a more direct relationship with their food, and that Wal-Mart's reasons for peddling more local produce probably stem from this growing customer interest in local and organically grown foods.

"I think that Wal-Mart selling more local food is a good thing," Wuhba said. The more participants in the local market, the better."

"Wal-Mart, at one point, was willing to purchase my produce if I purchased a \$2 million liability policy and got workman's compensation for my workers, who were myself, my wife and kids."

Steve Salt
Local farmer and owner of
Downtown Grocery Store

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