

Alumna writes vampire series

BY HUONG TRAN
Staff Reporter

Truman State alumna and author Alexandra Ivy landed on the best-seller list for her vampire series aimed at adults.

Ivy released "Bound by Darkness," the eighth book of Guardians of Eternity, her 14-part vampire fictional series Nov. 29 and hosted a book signing at Hastings Bookstore in Kirksville to celebrate its release.

"The series talks about a clan of vampires in Chicago trying to protect the world from an evil god," Ivy said.

The book signing attracted about 30 people, and since the release, the majority of customers buying it have been adults, said Carla Hayes, Hastings' book department manager. Hayes said she could not release the total number of Ivy's books sold, so far.

Ivy said she started writing about vampires before they were made as popular as they are today by the Twilight series.

"I like the fact that vampires are mysterious and immortal," Ivy said.

She said she enjoys creating characters, putting them in bad situations and seeing how they develop and grow up.

Ivy said she always tries to combine romance, horror and humor in her vampire novels.

She said she wanted her books to be differentiated among many different vampire novels but not too strange so the readers easily could follow the story.

"I decided which characters to be the same, for example, drinking blood, not going out in daylight, and I added some unique features. For example, when my

characters transform into vampires, they will lose their memory of their former life and they also have their own unique talents," she said.

Ivy said she has been writing since she was a theater major student at Truman. She graduated from Truman in 1984. In 1998, she sold her first book. Since then, she has published 50 books. The first 33 books are historical and the rest are about vampires.

Ivy said she always draws inspiration from the people she meets. She usually spends six months writing each book. Sometimes she gets stuck and does not know where to go next, but, she always lets her characters stay true to themselves.

Ivy hit the New York Times and USA Today Best Seller lists, after the fifth book of the series was released.

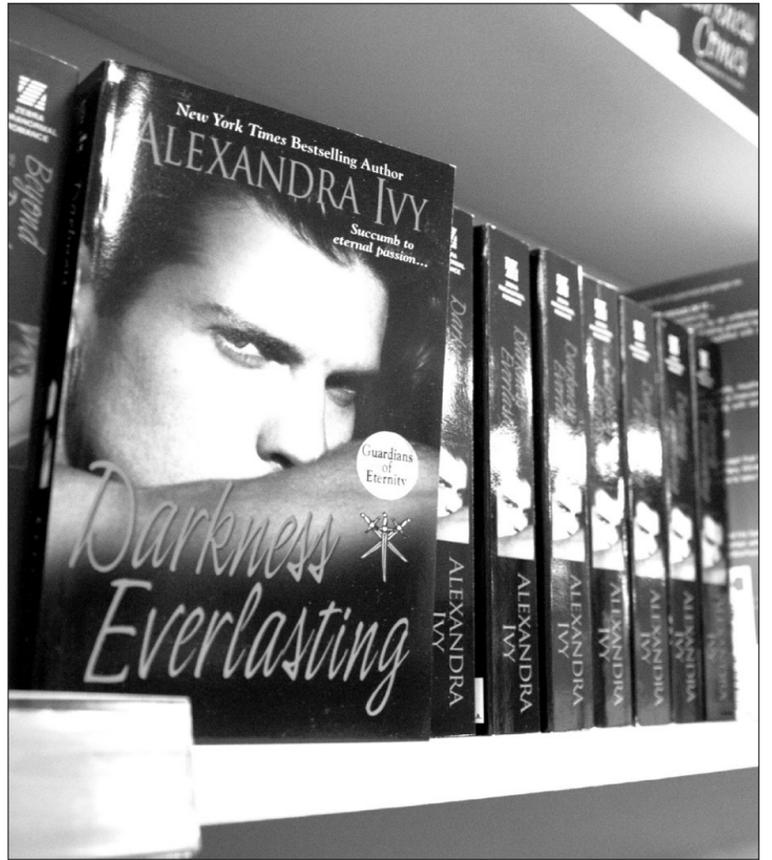
Ivy said she now is working with Kensington Publishing Corporation, but it took 10 years to find a publisher. She said this was the most difficult part when she started her career. However, she said it was the combination of luck and not giving up that allowed her to find a publisher.

"New authors should make sure they've written the books and have them polished and ready to go," Ivy said.

Publishers usually ask to read the first two to three chapters before they decide if they want to read a whole manuscript, so new authors have to be patient, Ivy said.

Nathan McWilliams, a former Truman English major, said he has written two books about wizards and dragons and had them published when he was in high school.

McWilliams said it was an easy process for him, because the website pub-



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index

Alexandra Ivy's bestselling book series Guardians of Eternity sit on display at Hastings. Ivy recently released the eighth book in the 14-part vampire series. The next book is due to come out during February.

lishamerica.com did everything for free, except for advertising.

"The only challenge is that you have to wait a while for publishing," he said.

McWilliams said that during his time at Truman, he attempted to write his third book, but he lost the files on his computer so the book wasn't finished.

He transferred to another school during Spring 2011 and changed his major to sociology, but he still loves writing.

"All people have imagination and writing is one way to convey it," McWilliams said.

Ivy plans to release her ninth book, "My Lord Vampire" on Feb. 28, 2012.

ITS eliminates T: drive

ITS shifts file saving to Google Apps, eliminating T: drive

BY PHILIP ZAHND
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In an effort to provide an easier way for students and faculty to create websites, Information Technology Services is eliminating the drive on the University server that stores web files and switching to an arrangement with Google to integrate several features into one webpage.

Students now can access their Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Documents and Google Sites at googleapps.truman.edu.

The new Truman-provided Google Sites feature allows users to create websites via a point-and-click interface onto pre-designed templates.

Web Services Manager Todd Kuhns said ITS is switching to Google Sites because the T: drive has been under-utilized and added to the list of things ITS has to manage.

Plus the T: drive also lacked space and required users to know how to create HTML documents — a skill he said the average person does not have.

He said T: drive sites can be accessed by typing www2.truman.edu/~ followed by a student's Truview username.

Files saved to the T: drive need to be relocated before Dec. 31, when the T: drive will be erased, according to an email sent out by ITS on Dec. 1.

"We've been providing a service that not many students have been able to take advan-



Courtesy Photo

By typing googleapps.truman.edu into an Internet browser, Truman students and faculty can access their email, Google calendar, Google Docs and now Google sites.

tage of because it's beyond their realm of scale or comfortability," Kuhns said. "We wanted to transition them to a service that they would find more useful. Google Sites is a simple way via point-and-click for students to be able to create their own website and put content up."

He said somebody from ITS had to do daily maintenance and de-bugging on the T: drive. Kuhns also said that instead of contacting ITS to get help to create a site, students and faculty now can create sites on their own with Google Sites.

Mathematics professor Don Bindner said he prefers to use the T: drive to post materials for his classes rather than Blackboard and other outlets because he thinks it is quicker.

Bindner said that putting a file on Blackboard requires several steps, but uploading it onto his T: drive can allow him to give his students access to it.

"I like the T: drive," he said. "I'll miss it when it's gone."

Bindner said students in the math and computer science department often use the T: drive for projects and the department will need to find an alternative before classes begin next semester. He said the department might create their own network, which will connect to a computer in Violette Hall. The T: drive and other University networks, such as the Y: and U: drives currently connect to a computer in McClain Hall.

Bindner said he is familiar with creating online content, but realizes the Google Sites feature is easier to use for most students and faculty.

"Lots of people are not likely to be web developers," he said. "They're not likely to learn HTML and the language of the Web and so on. Google Sites lets you create a page without having to know that kind of thing."

C-Hall kitchen to see renovation

\$2 million renovation scheduled for C-Hall kitchen and dining

BY ASHLEY JOST
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With the upcoming Centennial Hall renovations comes a long list of updates — one is the kitchen and dining hall.

Dennis Markeson, Sodexo's food service director, said that unlike the Missouri Hall dining hall renovations a few years ago, they've agreed to not close the dining services during the school year. Instead, he said construction will occur during Summer 2013.

"All of our kitchens are probably 30 to 35 years old," Markeson said. "After we renovated Ryle's kitchen, we felt we needed to take it one at a time and redo them all. Centennial is next on the list, and then eventually Missouri [Hall]."

He said that during Missouri Hall's complete building renovation the hall was updated, but the kitchen remains outdated.

The kitchen and dining hall renovation is projected to cost \$2 million, Campus Architect Mark Schultz said. Sodexo will contribute half that amount, and the other half is coming from the University's Auxiliary Fund, which comes from student tuition dollars, he said.

Electricity is being replaced during Summer 2012, Schultz said. Markeson said this is one

of the most important steps of the entire renovation process regarding the kitchen, because any new equipment that's purchased is going to require more electricity than he said is available currently.

"We're out of electricity," Markeson said. "A lot of the new equipment is different and takes different amperage, so everything has to be updated."

Markeson said that while the kitchen will have many new pieces of equipment and machinery, such as a \$60,000 composting machine similar to the one in Ryle Hall, they have a rule of thumb to not replace anything that can last for another five years.

"We have mixers and things that will last a lifetime," he said. "Even though they're old they still operate just fine."

Ed Dunlap, Centennial food service building manager, said he is looking forward to the new serving area setup's potential.

Similar to Ryle, Schultz said the kitchen and dining hall serving areas will be able to be closed off from the seating area. A benefit of this, he said, is students can use table space to sit after hours or between food shifts for homework or spending time with friends.

"I think everybody is just excited to see what they're going to do to the space," Dunlap said. "I've been on campus for over 20 years and this building has been the same since at least 1993. It'll be nice to see some change."

Congratulations

to the Fall 2011 pledge class on their activation!

Aimee Barczykowski
Alison Vercelli
Alyssa Shannon
Andi Watkins Davis
Angie Johnson
April Lohrmann
Caitlin Cobb
Chelsea Holland
Chris Vick
Claire Teichman
Dale Race
Danielle Meinhardt
Ellie Cavuoti
Erin Bavery
Greg Popham

Greg Schuman
Hannah Pey
Jenna Eichelberger
Jennifer Rippe
Jesse Patch
Jessica Spencer
Jonathan Deneke
Josh Olatunde
Justin Bayer
Kaitlin Lotz
Kate Hayes
Kathryn Schott
Katrina DeCoster
Kelley Lee



Kelly Cunningham
Kendra Jones
Kevin Tucker
Kristen Grimsley
Kristin Steege
Lauren Choate
Lauren Desmond
Lauri Craig
Libby Moser
Lindsey McDaniels
Lucas Hauser
Lyndie Mays
Megan Clayton
Megan Prestagui-Ohara
Michael Holmes

Molly Wingert
Nathan Dismang
Nicole Findley
Nikki Bené
Rachel Bertels
Samantha Yahl
Sara Perkins
Sarah Rivera
Sean Doyle
Shannon Weber
Shayna Rosen
Sherry Guillen
Taylor Demien
Trudi Gatteys