

Charity wears a smile

Freshman Morgan Schmitz models to win money for Truman's Newman Center

BY EMILY BATTMER
Staff Reporter

Standing at a mere 5 feet, 2 inches, freshman Morgan Schmitz said she might not have the standard model build — but that doesn't matter in the Maurice's Main Street Model Search.

Maurice's is conducting a nationwide search for a dozen "real girls in all sizes" to represent the store in upcoming ad campaigns, according to its website. Schmitz was eager to seize the opportunity, not because of the national exposure or shopping spree prize, but because winning would allow her to donate \$7,500 to an organization of her choice.

Schmitz heard about the competition during early February while browsing Maurice's website, and decided to apply when she noticed it would give her an opportunity to help a good cause in a way she otherwise wouldn't be able to.

"I thought it would be cool to have pictures taken for Maurice's, but what really drew me to it was how much they would donate," she said. "I chose the Newman Center."

Schmitz said she grew up attending the church with her family.

Schmitz is competing against 1,500 women nationwide, but she said she thought competing was worth a shot.

Schmitz said she is looking at the competition as a learning experience and a confidence booster, and the fact that Maurice's is searching for regular, charitable girls — like herself — is also encouraging.

"Maurice's tries to showcase people of all different shapes and sizes so it's not like you have to be 6 feet tall and weigh 100 pounds," she said. "Even if there are 1,500 other people in this competition, who knows? It might happen."

Kirksville Maurice's Manager Becca Van Velzer said that showcasing average, everyday girls is what Maurice's is about. This is the second time the store has done a model search, she said, and the first-time winners already have been photographed and are being marketed nationwide in stores.

Three other women in the Kirksville area are competing this time, Van Velzer said. Being from a small town doesn't hurt their chances of winning — in fact, one of last year's chosen models was from the nearby town of Marceline, Mo., and Van Velzer said she's on posters in Kirksville's store now.

"They like to spotlight small town, everyday girls, rather than hiring models," she said. "I think it's fabulous that



Freshman Morgan Schmitz poses for a photo for Maurice's Main Street Model Search. If she wins, Maurice's will donate \$7,500 to the charity of her choice, Truman's Catholic Newman Center.

a lot of women in our community are really getting themselves out there and participating in the model search."

Van Velzer said she also likes to see communities support the contestants. Local Maurice's stores do what they can to back participants from their hometown, Van Velzer said.

Chris Korte, Catholic Newman Center director, said he was pleasantly surprised and awed to hear the center was Schmitz's charity of choice. He said he would encourage community members to vote for Schmitz, not only for her benefit, but also because the church would be extremely grateful to receive a donation they could really use.

The Newman Center's original building was struck by lightning and burned to the ground during 2007, Korte said. "Everything was destroyed..." he said. "We had to rebuild a building

and purchase all of the furnishings that are needed. We kind of had to start from scratch."

The rebuilding process has been long and expensive, with phase one of the rebuilding plan still waiting to be paid off, Korte said.

The church is closing in on the last \$10,000 to \$20,000 dollars, and he said the sooner they can pay it off and complete their multi-purpose building, the sooner they can start on phase two — building a chapel.

He said the Newman Center helps students make friends and grow as people in their leadership and their faith, which is something students can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

"If [Schmitz] were to contribute to helping us pay the building off, it would make a difference for a lot of people, not just this year but for years to come," he said. "It's a gift that keeps on giving."

To vote in Maurice's Main Street Model Search visit www.mauricesmainstreetmodel.com

Working for a 4.0

Truman students with 4.0s share their tips for maintaining a perfect grade point average

BY ALEX CARLSON
Staff Reporter

With each click of the mouse, senior Megan LaFollette moves another word or number onto the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Pages of data are organized in a single file on her laptop. This method of listing study questions for classes is LaFollette's secret for keeping her 4.0 grade point average.

Truman State students with high GPAs utilize strategies and tactics to keep their academic record high, while balancing extracurricular activities, jobs and social lives.

This is LaFollette's second year at Truman, but her high number of credit hours and diligent work ethic have earned her a senior ranking and a perfect GPA.

Her goal of becoming a veterinarian motivates LaFollette. With only 27 veterinary schools in the country and a competitive community of incoming students, even the smallest change in GPA can have a huge impact, she said. LaFollette said she works better with a busy schedule. She said she finds daily productivity rewarding and it gives her comfort when dealing with the competitive veterinary field.

LaFollette organizes her study questions throughout the week, using a spreadsheet. By assigning Excel columns with practice questions and answers for classes, she organizes difficult subject material into a simpler form, similar to flash cards. LaFollette said the organization helps her stay ahead of the game.

"I practice and study frequently," LaFollette said. "Ideally, I try to study for a couple hours each day and review after class. I rarely procrastinate. I like to get things done long before they are due. I've been studying that way since high school."

Despite a full schedule for her pre-veterinary classes, LaFollette has been a member of the Truman Equestrian team, the pre-veterinary club and the Sigma Alpha professional agricultural sorority since her freshman year.

Freshman Kylee Short is an agriculture science major and has a passion for taking care of animals. With a long-term goal of training horses at her own ranch, Short's dreams demand many skills, and a high GPA is essential to a career in agricultural science. Despite the pressure of keeping a high GPA, Short also is a member of the Equestrian Team and Sigma Alpha sorority, while also owning a horse at a local ranch.

Short keeps schoolwork interesting by working in short bursts on different subjects or in different places on campus. While procrastination does happen periodically, she said mixing up the study sessions helps keep the monotony away.

"I keep myself in study mode when things really get intense," Short said. "...When I know that I need to finish something, I get it done. I'll break up the day into times and places and focus on what I need to get done."

Short often makes plans to spend time with friends in the Sigma Alpha sorority or the Equestrian Team, but usually doesn't study with them. She said while studying in a group can be good, studying alone keeps the focus consistent and more work will be done.

Junior Sarah Buczkiewicz manages a 4.0 GPA, despite her vigorous business administration major. The large amount of work might seem intimidating to others, but Buczkiewicz knows the topics she learns in class will benefit her goal of working for a non-profit company.

During her freshman year, Buczkiewicz didn't join any Truman organizations, but after becoming better at managing her time and adjusting to college life, she discovered she can keep her GPA high while being an active member of organizations.

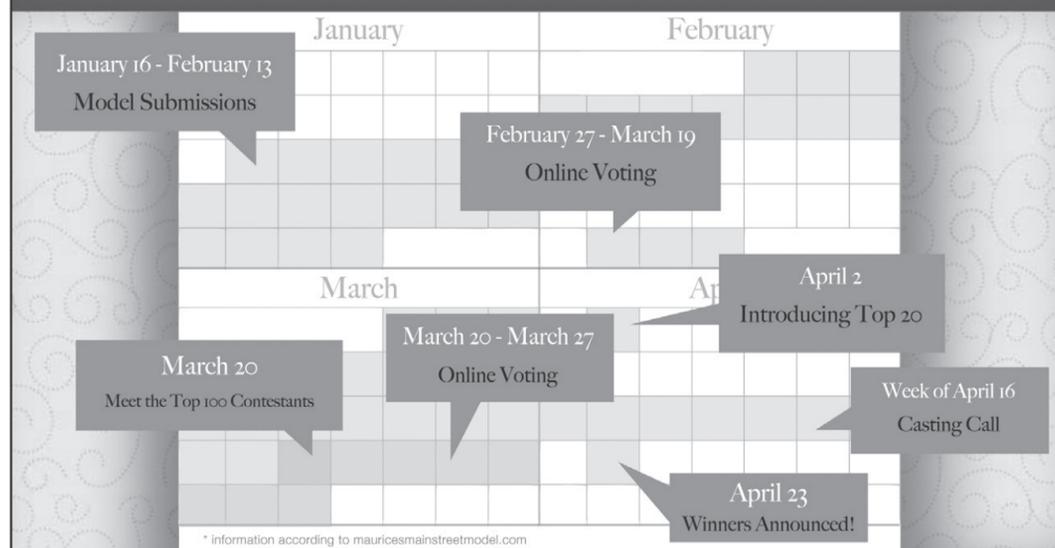
To Buczkiewicz, even the smallest distraction can make a study session fall apart. Although it might work for other students, working with television or music on doesn't work for her. She spends time with friends occasionally, but when it comes to staying on top of classes and her GPA, Buczkiewicz makes academics her top priority.

"I don't postpone reading chapters," Buczkiewicz said. "I keep up with homework and don't skip class. When it comes to studying for tests, I'm able to be a bit more flexible, but I maximize whatever time that I have, even if it's just half an hour or 20 minutes."

Truman's high-achieving students might have a lot to do each week, but having a 4.0 GPA is a rewarding moment of accomplishment, she said.

"Just use the basic practices that you've been doing since you started school," Buczkiewicz said. "You don't have to do everything at once, but even a little extra work will help."

Maurices Main Street Model Search 2012



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