



Senior Andrew Grojean designed a cover photo of his profile for Facebook's upcoming design change, "Timeline." Mashable.com recognized his design as one of the top ten layouts submitted.

Students design for social media

BY BETHANY COURY
Staff Reporter

When senior Andrew Grojean found out about Facebook's upcoming layout change, "Timeline," before most users, he saw it as an opportunity to showcase his creativity.

Students working toward a career in design are seeking careers permanently integrated into social media, Grojean said. Social media has also provided a way for a few Truman students to gain recognition for their designs.

When Grojean heard about "Timeline," Facebook's impending update that will allow users to upload a large photo onto the top of their profiles, he created a cover photo which gained him recognition in the social media blogging community.

Grojean said it's important for him as a digital designer to keep up with social media trends, such as "Timeline."

"People found out about Osama Bin Laden dying on Twitter, about Steve Jobs dying on Facebook," Grojean said. "The news is shifting, and I want to capitalize on that."

Grojean developed an application that allowed him to access the Timeline feature sooner. He designed a cover photo, which he submitted to Mashable.com, the largest social media news blog, Grojean said. Out of about 700 submissions, Mashable picked Grojean's timeline, listing it second in a blog post of a top 10 list, he said. Grojean, who received about 200 Facebook friend requests as a result, said he was shocked and excited.

"It's just kind of cool to have a very nerdy 15 minutes of fame," Grojean said. "The average person might not look at it and think it's stellar and amazing, but when you put it in the context of the social media realm, it's a pretty big deal."

Grojean said he'll be able to use this in his portfolio, not just to showcase his creativity, but as a segue into talking about how he stays current with social media trends.

Keeping up with social media isn't difficult for Grojean, though. He said some think social media is a fad, but it's really a revolution.

Senior Shawn Griffin, a visual communication major, uses

Flickr and an online portfolio to showcase his designs. The design that gained him the most recognition was his illustration of a fictional tour poster of "No Doubt," which many fan page owners asked to feature.

"It's definitely a way of getting your name out there," Griffin said. "Even if it's unintentionally, you're getting your stuff out there."

He said social media has changed the way many people seek illustrations and designs. Authors looking for cover art no longer specifically hire designers on commission, he said, but rather they search social sites such as Flickr, seeing work from people who might not have a professional background yet.

Visual communication professor Russell Nelson said one of his students last year, alumna Huyen Dinh, posted a design piece from class online, which prompted two or three authors to contact her about publishing her work in large-volume books of design examples.

"So the social media, the Internet, led her back to a more traditional format for a display of her designs, as well," Nelson said.

Visit tours gone wrong

BY JEN MARKS
Staff Reporter

While student ambassadors try to show Truman's best qualities during potential students' visits to campus, sometimes mishaps occur.

Campus tours usually go off without a hitch, but some students have had off-the-wall tales about tours gone terribly wrong.

During sophomore Katherine Scheidt's first campus visit last year during Halloween weekend, bizarre questions parents asked led to its downfall.

Scheidt was with her tour when a mother asked the tour guide if any students had ever been hit by cars on campus. Scheidt said the tour guide replied she didn't think so. She said the mother then said her son was hit by a car on campus.

Scheidt said that when she met with her admissions counselor, things became weirder.

"She was dressed up like the Cheshire Cat, which was a little freaky," Scheidt said.

She said they discussed scholarships while her costumed counselor had the cat's tail attached to her arm. Scheidt said that when she encountered her admissions counselor dressed up, she just went with it.

Student ambassador sophomore Sean Trammel had an experience with a disgruntled parent while giving a tour. Trammel said he was leading a father and daughter through the residence halls when the dad asked where the all-girl dormitories were. When Trammel replied that all the residence halls were co-ed except for sorority housing in Blanton-Nason-Brewer Hall, Trammel said the father glared at him and said his daughter is not joining a sorority.

Trammel said he didn't know what to say to the father, who continued to glare at him, so he continued the tour.

Trammel said that on another tour he led a family through a tour of his room, which he likes to showcase because, as a Student Adviser, he lives without a roommate. Unbeknownst to him, one of his friends had left her condoms sitting on a table by the door. Trammel said that on the way out of the

room, the mother became wide-eyed as she looked directly at the exposed condoms.

"Mind you, this daughter is home schooled, so basically she's not coming to Truman," Trammel said.

Not all of Trammel's stories end in disaster. While taking a family through the Cyber Cafe on the main floor of Magruder Hall, Trammel said he made a remark about its irony.

"It's cyber obviously because of the computers, but there's no food here so I don't know why it's called the cafe," he said.

He said that during one of these occasions, a grandmother of one of the students said maybe you're supposed to eat up the knowledge.

Sophomore Sarah Westfall, whose room serves as a model room for potential students to see, said she had become ill at an inconvenient time and was so sick she had spent the night on the bathroom floor in her residence hall.

"It was so bad," Westfall said. "But I definitely was laying on the floor, probably moaning a little bit."

Westfall said that just as she felt her stomach needed to purge itself of its contents, a tour walked into her room, witnessing the sickly scene.

Westfall said she was the cause of another tour mishap. She said she and her friends had been drawing pictures on a residence hall study room whiteboard, where she had written the word "sex" in giant letters across the board when the family walked by.

"I was circling it and underlining it and I point to it and turn around, and they're all right there staring at me through the glass," Westfall said.

Westfall said she turned scarlet and was mortified. Westfall said she just avoided making eye contact with the laughing family.

While a tour mishap might not give potential students the best view of campus, it isn't always a deal breaker.

Scheidt said she choose to come to Truman despite her tour experience because she loved the affordability, the campus and the atmosphere of Truman.

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