

# Faculty gear up at academy

## Police Academy teaches faculty members law enforcement skills

BY ALEX CARLSON  
Staff Reporter

Lori Gray, Truman's Human Resources benefits coordinator, and Lynn Rose, History and Disabilities Studies professor, are just as much students as faculty, but not in the typical sense.

They've learned skills in hostage negotiation, jail layout, and even how to fire a pistol — all within thirteen weeks. Gray and Rose participated in the Citizens Police Academy in Kirksville, a class for citizens to learn about police work and procedures in the city. The class was held every Tuesday night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. from Aug. 16 to Nov. 15.

Gray's and Rose's interest in law enforcement convinced the two to participate in the Citizens Police Academy. Rose's own desire to settle back into Kirksville life after working in Europe also contributed to her interest in the academy.

Interested citizens were required to fill out an application for the Kirksville Police Department to review. Eligible applicants then had to have a background check, with the successes enlisted to learn about the police force in Kirksville.

Gray enlisted in the Citizens Police Academy and said she developed a camaraderie with Rose throughout the course of the class. The two worked hard to learn more about what the police in Kirksville accomplish for the city. Gray said the most valuable skill she learned was about hostage situations and bringing the people back to calm. Gray said the information had "take-home value."

She also said the stereotypical view of police officers was "disheartening," and officers aren't just about catching speeders. The police academy helped Gray learn about how much the police do for the community, while also learning skills that can make someone a better person.

"I'm a person who grew up on a farm, so I've handled weapons before but the academy gave me more confidence and experience," Gray said. "It makes a person more rounded and more alert of what is going on in a situation. The negotiation skills can make you more

alert of a situation."

Lynn Rose's motivation to join the Citizens Police Academy was different than Gray's.

After a one-year period of teaching in Germany, transitioning back to Kirksville life was not an easy task, Rose said. Her interest in law enforcement convinced her to start receiving updates from the Kirksville Police Department. Rose wanted to find a way to ease the transition back into being a part of the community, so to get involved, Rose enlisted in the Citizens Police Academy. She said this is a decision that would help satisfy her interest in law enforcement while also helping her settle back into her routine at Truman.

Besides learning about the sharpshooting and hostage negotiation procedures, Rose wants to take the teaching and social interaction methods that she learned from the Citizens Police Academy and integrate them into her work as a professor.

Though Rose said she couldn't be a policewoman due to her age, she still wants to learn more about interaction with citizens so she can teach her classes with the same kind of enthusiasm and involvement. Regardless of the subject, whether on history or disabilities, Rose said the interaction learned in the academy is very important.

"I wanted a better understanding of the interaction between the police as a force and the citizens," Rose said. "As for applying my knowledge to the classroom, I take it and apply it when looking at my courses. I thought about interactions between police and citizens and the police's teaching qualities during the class. I want to teach my students in the same kind of helpful way."

Lynn Rose's husband history professor, Steven Reschly, said he supported Rose's decision to invest time in the Citizens Police Academy and encouraged her continuous learning, despite Rose's busy semester schedule.

"It's hard for an instructor to give up one evening a week every semester but I know she was fascinated by the group and she would learn a lot too," Reschly said.

Reschly said Rose could enjoy being a student again and he applauds Rose's many accomplishments during such a short time.

"She's had a very busy se-



Courtesy Photo  
Lynn Rose, history and disabilities studies professor, poses in a Class B SWAT suit at the Citizens Police Academy in Kirksville. Rose's interest in law enforcement led her to participate in the academy.

mester but she has made many accomplishments such as the police academy, while also coming back to Kirksville and adjusting to that," Reschly said. Even so, I think that police academy course is one of the things she's enjoyed the most."

Gray and Rose both said the

academy education was an enjoyable experience.

"I absolutely encourage anyone to participate," Gray said. "From high school students to retirees, I strongly encourage others to experience this and attend the academy. You get a whole new perspective on police work

and what they do for citizens."

The Citizens Police Academy graduation occurred on Tuesday, November 15. Of the 22 students who participated, 20 of them graduated. The course was paid for by the police chief and is in discussion for being a yearly event.

# Writing contest creates bonds

## Truman students find support in groups as they participate in NaNoWriMo

BY EMILY BATTMER  
Staff Reporter

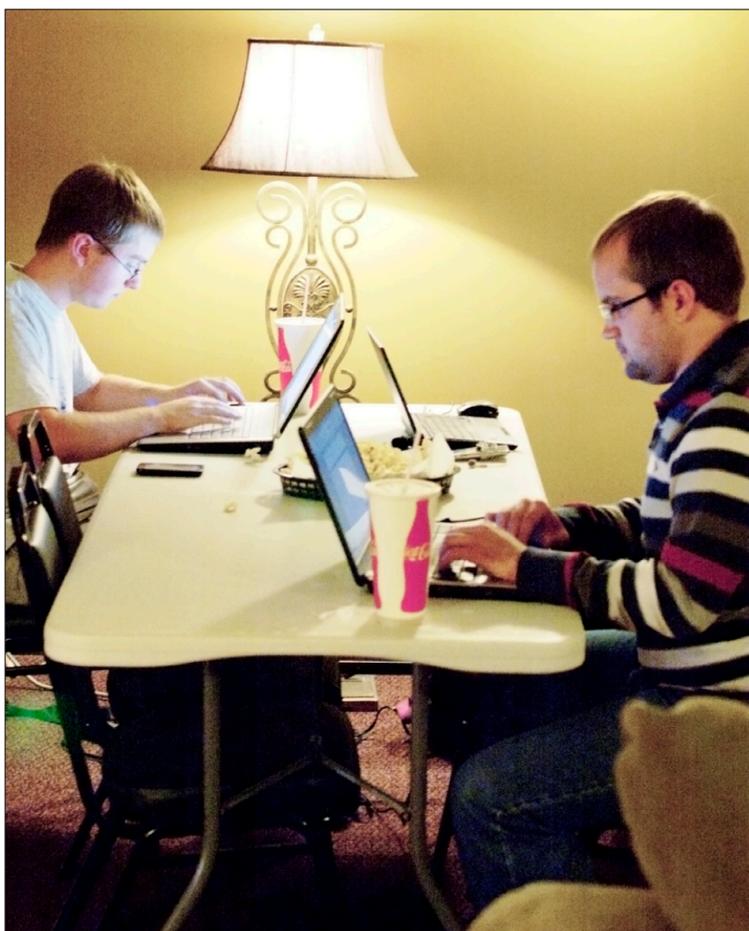
This month, Truman State's most serious writers are challenging themselves to write 50,000 words in 30 days. Writing an average of more than 10,000 words a week — about 1,666 words a day — can be overwhelming, but with the support of fellow writers, these novelists can handle and even enjoy the challenge.

National Novel Writing Month is organized by the Office of Letters and Light, a national literary advocacy and charity group. The idea for NaNoWriMo started in 1999 and has grown into a yearly nationwide phenomenon, said junior Joshua Kehe, who is participating in NaNoWriMo for the fourth time. Kehe said his goal is to write 2,500 words a day, which for him translates into about two hours a night.

Throughout November, writers everywhere come together to support each other in their efforts, he said. Kehe said the challenge is especially common on college campuses because there is a sense of community there, and that is important for writers during NaNoWriMo.

For Kehe, who is writing a Star Wars fan fiction novel this year, that community and encouragement comes from a small writing group he formed at the beginning of the semester. He said talking about his writing and seeing other people go through the same journey he is has given him a support system on which to lean. He said he often exchanges tips with a friend at home, who is participating in NaNoWriMo for the first time. He said that in addition to providing support, these people help keep him accountable. Thanks to his dedication and the support he receives from his fellow writers, Kehe reached the halfway mark of 25,000 words on Tuesday.

Official weekly group write-ins during NaNoWriMo are also designed to build a group mentality, said sophomore Geoffrey Havens, NaNoWriMo municipal



Ryan Kersten/Index  
Sophomore Geoffrey Havens and senior Ryan Mueller work on their National Novel Writing Month novels at a group "write-in" Nov. 11 at Pickler's Famous.

liaison for the Missouri Elsewhere region. He said it is different from the traditional book writing process, in which writers work largely alone.

"It's cool to see people who you would never know otherwise come together, to write with them and talk about our writing," he said. "And it helps when you have a group system to cheer each other on."

For most writers, that point comes

during the dreaded second week, Havens said, when the initial enthusiasm begins to wear off and writers start feeling like it's never going to happen. It's a battle of will, he said, but the key is to keep going and to find encouragement where you can.

For example, at Havens' weekly write-ins, he might challenge the writers to "word sprints" to see who can write

the most words in an allotted time, Havens said. The primary focus, though, is pushing your own limits, and engage in friendly competition.

Participant junior Amanda Hamilton said novelists depend on each other for support and encouragement during the month, even though writing usually tends to be an individual activity.

"There's definitely a personality that goes along with serious writers in that they're awkward, sort of shut-ins," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said she also depends on that level of accountability from other writing group members as she works her way through her novel, a fictional story of two friends who fall into a cult. She said working with other writers can be a little intimidating, but it makes her want to keep pushing herself. It's good to have some level of competition, she said.

"It's basically like writing an essay every day," Hamilton said. "If you did that for a month, you'd get pretty tired of writing essays. There's always a point when I regret it and wonder why I ever started."

Although this is Hamilton's fifth year participating, it's her first year doing NaNoWriMo with others. She said she suddenly knows at least 10 people who understand exactly what she is going through. Her best friend is participating, as well as several of her Writing Center co-workers.

"It's nice to have that community and people interested in you actually finishing," she said.

Hamilton said she feels an immediate kinship with people she finds who have done or are doing NaNoWriMo. She said the feeling is similar to a sports or band camp — where people pour that much sweat and work into something that seems "kind of horrible" at the time, but they look back on it as a fond memory and grow closer with anyone who has experienced the same thing.

Hamilton said it's a self-rewarding competition with yourself, and a good test of your dedication to writing.

"You can always say, 'Back in 2011, I wrote a novel in a month, and it was awesome,'" she said.