

Students mentor local children

BY BURGUNDY RAMSEY
Staff reporter

Sophomore Erin Smith and 9-year-old Tomie Jo Danner are from different towns. They have different parents and different last names. Despite this, they are siblings.

This is possible through the Campus PALS program, or People Acting Like Siblings. The program pairs Truman State students with local children ranging in age from kindergarten to 5th grade. PALS's purpose is to provide leadership, guidance and friendship. The Truman students, or "biggs," devote at least an hour a week to spend time with their "littles." This one hour time period can make a big difference in the lives of the kids, PALS President senior Katelyn Beike said.

Beike is starting her third year in the program. She said she enjoys getting to see her littles each week and that one hour sometimes isn't enough time. She said the hour gives her a chance to be around children and do things they enjoy, such as crafts or baking.

This is Smith's second year in the program. She has two littles, a set of sisters, ages 7 and 9. Smith said that she has kept the littles she had, which is typical for the program.

She became involved in the program last year because she always wanted to participate in a big sister program. She said she found out about the organization at the activities fair and everything just came together for her. Her main concern starting out was transportation. She doesn't have a car and was worried it would stop her from being able to take part in the organization. However, the parents provide all the transportation for the children involved.

Beike said providing transportation is one of the few requirements of the parents of the children involved in the program. To sign their child up they fill out a basic information form about their child, similar to the form Truman students wanting to participate in the program fill out. The PALS executive board matches the biggs and littles based on their interests, Beike said. Children whose families are going through a divorce or have a special need usually receive first priority, but all children in the age group are eligible.

For Danner, once a week isn't enough.

"I wish we could see each other once a day," she said.

Smith said she likes that they have this to look forward to each week. She said she has noticed a change in the girls since they became her littles. The younger one used to be shy, but has since opened up. Danner said she has started to listen better.

Beike said these kinds of changes are the goal of the program and that she hopes the biggs can be a good influence on the littles. Beike said she enjoys doing these things for her littles, and just spending time with them.

"I like it when I can tell that they want to be with me," Beike said. "They like coming to see me and they are excited for what I have planned for the day."



Junior Andrew Steinbeck works on perfecting his piece "A Heart Aight," which he plans to submit in the Young Artist category for the Music Teachers National Association Composition Competition in January 2012.

Lindsey Borgna/Index

All Eyes On: Andrew Steinbeck

Andrew Steinbeck composes original scores for Truman

BY ALEX CARLSON
Staff Reporter

Junior Andrew Steinbeck knows that while a choral note resonates for a few seconds among an orchestral chamber, an intricate score of written music resonates in orchestral halls for lifetimes and beyond. Truman State students have been playing instruments and performing musical productions since the school's inception, but students like Steinbeck have taken the next big step: composing their own music.

From orchestral epics to ambient theater scores, the Truman music department and its students have found creative outlets in music composition.

Steinbeck's interest in music composition began when he watched grandfather play piano for variety shows. His grandfather also composed music for a local theater, inspiring Steinbeck to start designing his own musical compositions. Upon coming to Truman, Steinbeck immediately

became involved with the music department.

"I had a piece performed only a month after moving in," Steinbeck said. "I was asked during my freshman year to serve as one of the composers for a fall theater production. That completely floored me, the fact that I could be

thrust into this opportunity so soon and being a person of a lot of energy, I naturally seized the opportunity."

At the request of other divisions, Steinbeck has taken his instrumental musicianship and integrated it into other disciplines. The Truman Statesmen marching band asked him to contribute musical arrangements during his freshman year, and he continues to compose music for them.

"I was approached by our marching band director and was asked if I could arrange the show

for him," Steinbeck said. "He had pieces that were already composed by others, and my work mostly took what might have been a jazz, big-band arrangement and I wrote it up in the proper scoring for a marching band."

Warren Gooch, Music Theory and Composition professor,

supports students' composition projects, regardless of genre or medium, and has a faculty position on the student music composition organization, Mostly Live, helping students like Steinbeck refine their craft.

"Collaborations are a wonderful way to learn your craft, so I encourage them whenever possible," Gooch said. "We've had collaborations with art students, English students with creative writing and students in dance. It's really useful for a composer to look at other aspects of creativity

that go beyond just music."

For Truman music composers, creativity and musical exploration are no new concepts. Assistant music professor Charles Gran has helped ambitious composers find their niche in developing their own music scores, but stresses commitment to the creative process. Gran calls composition "the discipline of creation."

"Work hard and work regularly," Gran said. "Tune your creative energy so your work gets completed. It's one thing to have ideas, but it's another thing to get them down on paper."

Discipline isn't a problem for Steinbeck. He said his charismatic Broadway performer attitude is his motivation to create music and finding creative originality is a major reward.

"I've had times where I've had some ideas strike me where I have to stop and think whether something I compose is really original or I'm just remembering it," Steinbeck said. "The work of editing a piece can be rather tedious and can bog one down after a while, but assuring that my work is original and worthwhile is the biggest challenge of being a composer."

“I’ve had times where I’ve had some ideas strike me where I have to stop and think whether something I compose is really original or I’m just remembering it.”

— Andrew Steinbeck
Junior

Greek women charge down hill



A Gamma Chi runs down the hill behind Stokes Stadium, screaming the name of the sorority who they had been disaffiliated from for recruitment purposes.

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