

Beehive Collective discusses cost of coal



Dan Warner/Index

Tyler "Bee" explains the tapestry behind him during The Beehive Design Collective's presentation "The True Cost of Coal" on Wednesday night in Ryle Hall. The group is based in Maine and creates intricate designs to illustrate what happens when people fail to care for the environment. Tyler said people in the collective often change their last names to "Bee" when representing the group to preserve the anonymous and collaborate nature of the designs.

Students paid to take test

BY JACKIE KINEALY
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A group of 320 Truman students were randomly selected during the past few weeks to earn \$50 by taking a computerized test sponsored by the New Jersey-based company Educational Testing Services.

The non-profit test publisher is conducting research about student performance and motivation. It contacted Truman's Assessment and Testing Office, which emailed sophomores, juniors and seniors from a randomly generated list to find participants. Registration closed this weekend when spots were filled.

"It's completely ETS's study," said Nancy Asher, coordinator of testing and reporting and associate budget Officer. "They just contacted us to see if we thought our students would be able to participate, and we said we'll give it a try, and students are quite willing."

The test results primarily are for ETS researchers for developing tests, but students will see their score on the test screen when they complete it, she said. The University will see the group results as well.

"It will give us a picture of our 320 students as a whole, how they did on it, so we can actually use the data for evaluating our own individual education outcomes assessments," Asher said.

Asher said she tried to get an equal distribution of students from each class, excluding freshman. She contacted about 350 students from each grade level. The company did not need freshmen to take the test, she said.

ETS representatives did not want to comment about the test until after its completion in October, because they worry it will compromise the test results if students know details before they take it, Asher said.

ETS is a non-profit company that publishes the Graduate Record Exam and the Praxis series for Masters of Education students among other tests, according to its website.

Testing began Monday and will continue through mid-October, according to the email sent to students from the Assessment and Testing Office.

Senior Casey Scoggins was one of the 320 students selected to take the test. She said she won't use the money to splurge — she is glad to have the extra padding in her bank account.

"I don't have as much money this year, so I'm basically going to have it as back-up for more groceries and other necessities," she said.

The email sent to students said the test would take between two and two-and-a-half hours, but Scoggins said she finished in about an hour-and-a-half.

Truman buys digital databases

BY CALLI PRICE
Staff Reporter

Truman State researchers can now access declassified government documents housed in Washington D.C. from Pickler Memorial Library.

The library bought subscriptions to four digital collections this year, including the Digital National Security Archive, which includes more than 80,000 declassified documents pertaining to U.S. foreign and military policy since 1945.

Within the database, 35 collections each focus on a particular subject and include different types of policy documents, said Janet Romine, library co-director and head of public services.

The three other collections are entitled "American West", "Defining Gender, 1450-1920" and "Eighteenth Century Journals II."

"You can access, as a student or as a scholar, these documents just like you were there at the National Archives or the

presidential library and see these things online," said Thomas Zoumaras, professor and chair of the history department. "With what the library has now, we have access to their complete archive. There's a lot of material there, and it makes research far easier, far more efficient."

In the past, history students could sometimes not complete research projects to their liking because the library databases did not include the documents they needed, Zoumaras said.

One student was able to complete a project about re-evaluating the overthrow of Marxist President Salvador Allende in Chile and his assassination without access to the DNSA materials, but would have been able to complete it more easily if he had access to those sources, Zoumaras said.

He said he has been working on adding to the database collection with Romine for the past few years, but lack of money in the budget has prevented it.

This summer, however, money leftover from last year's fiscal budget made it possible for the library to purchase a subscription to the DNSA, Romine said.

She said the library purchased the DNSA for \$28,500 with an \$800 annual fee, and the three Adam Matthew Digital collections for \$35,000 with a \$350 annual fee.

Senior history major Peter Johnson received an email from Zoumaras, who informed all history majors and minors of the database addition. He currently is in a history class with Zoumaras focusing on foreign policy and predicts he soon will be using the new database.

"I think it'll benefit the professors in that it'll have a greater resource to give to their students, and the students because, well, as historians, our bread and butter is our sources," Johnson said. "Without sources, we can't 'write' history, as it were. It's very important."

All four collections are available through the Library's website.



Are you interested in graduate school but are unsure how to prepare and be competitive? Consider applying for the McNair Program at Truman.

The McNair Program is one of eight federal TRIO programs whose ultimate goal is to significantly increase the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds in higher education. To this end, the McNair Program encourages and prepares such underrepresented students to pursue graduate, non-professional programs leading to doctoral degrees.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 3:30pm in SUB 3200
Monday, October 10, 2011 at 3pm in SUB 3000

Program Benefits

- Academic advising
- Faculty mentoring
- Paid research internships
- Presentation opportunities at conferences
- GRE preparation
- Graduate school visits
- Graduate school application assistance

Program Success

Truman received its first McNair grant in 1992 and has since operated an exemplary program.

- 145 Scholars have earned Masters degrees
- 31 Scholars are currently enrolled in a Masters program
- 28 Scholars have earned Doctoral degrees
- 39 Scholars are currently enrolled in a Doctoral program

Eligibility

To be eligible for program participation, an applicant must be

1. a low-income*, first-generation college student** or an individual from an underrepresented group in graduate education (African-American, Alaskan Native, American Indian, Hispanic American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander) **AND**
2. a full-time student at Truman State University with at least sophomore status;
3. a United States citizen or permanent resident, a permanent resident of Guam/Northern Mariana Islands/Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or a resident of one of the Freely Associated States; **AND**
4. a student with a strong desire to pursue a doctoral degree.

The deadline to submit McNair applications is November 1st.

To apply, visit <http://mcnair.truman.edu>
Call Sarah Hass at 660-785-5393 for more information.

*An individual from a family whose taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150% of an amount equal to the poverty level as determined by using criteria established by the Bureau of Census. The Federal Low-Income Levels are updated each year: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html>

**A student neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree; or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree.

The McNair Program is partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and with matching funds from Truman State University.

SAB hosts Rachel Brown and band



Jessie Poole/Index

Yacouba Sissoko accompanies acoustic artist Rachel Brown with the kora, a traditional West African instrument made of a gourd and cow-hide. The band's music fuses pop, Caribbean, country and hip-hop, according to Brown's website. The live music was a Coffeshop event hosted by the Student Activities Board Sunday night in the Student Union Building.