

# Ensemble prepares for conference

Calli Lowry/Index  
Students perform during the Wind Symphony concert Sunday in Baldwin Auditorium. The concert was in preparation for the ensemble's upcoming performance at the Missouri Educators Association Conference this weekend.



## Students should not be judged by major



### Reporter argues major stereotypes are unfair and harmful

BY SARAH MUIR  
Staff Reporter

When you meet someone new on campus, there's always a set of questions you'll ask them right from the start: name, hometown, year in school and major. It seems like an innocent enough set of questions, but as soon as we know the answers to them, we immediately start forming an opinion about that person.

During Truman Week, I asked and was asked these questions a countless number of times. It wasn't until the people around me started commenting on other people's majors that I started to see just how many stereotypes there were for each major. It didn't seem to matter what major it was, there always was some preconceptions that came with it.

I noticed something a lot of people would say to me once I told them I was a political science major. Nearly everyone I told my major to proceeded to ask me my opinion about a political issue. They assumed because I was a political science major I would have strong opinions regarding current issues in the news. That stereotype regarding political science majors hardly is offensive, but I feel obligated to be unbiased and also mention the more unpleasant stereotype. People have told me political science majors are

stuck up before realizing I was a political science major myself.

There are plenty of stereotypes that go around. For biology majors, people assume you are pre-med. For communication majors, people assume you are taking the easy major. For computer science majors, people assume you are a gamer. For nearly any humanities major, people assume you aren't going to get a job after college. The list goes on and on.

Here is the problem though: not all of those generalizations are going to be true. We go around categorizing people by their major simply because it's easy and convenient, not because it's accurate.

I'll be the first to admit I'm occasionally guilty of this. The damage of stereotypes by major can range from being a harmless misconception that's easy to brush off, to something that prevents you from getting to know and respect someone.

Unless you've tried to take every single major at Truman State, you can't possibly speak to the degree of difficulty of each major, and unless you've met every single person in each of those majors, you can't possibly know who they are or what their future holds.

If for some strange reason you actually have done either of those things, then you'll probably understand better than anyone that the stereotypes are nothing more than incorrect assumptions.

There is a great thing about Truman though — the school basically forces you to experience things outside of your major. There's the mode courses you need to fill, the essential skills requirements, foreign languages, intercultural classes and an interdisciplinary class. These requirements are more than just a way for you to discover potential interests or to receive a well-rounded education — they can facilitate understanding too.

You really can't make it through Truman without interacting with all kinds of majors and experiencing all kinds of different subjects. So, even after all of that, if you still assume things about people based solely on their major, you probably aren't paying enough attention.

## Not all relationships must be romantic



### Reporter reflects about definition of significant relationships

BY EMILY WICHMER  
Staff Reporter

If you've been on Facebook for a while, you've probably seen posts written by high schoolers complaining about the fact that they aren't in a relationship.

These posts are problematic because the people who post them seem to think there is something wrong with not having a boyfriend or girlfriend and forget there are other important types of relationships they need to develop.

Not everyone is in a relationship. Couples experience breakups, people play "hard to get" and some never have been in a relationship before.

And it's OK. In fact, it's normal. With about seven billion people on the planet, the chances that you're in a relationship with "the one" is small.

The problem isn't the fact that you're not in a relationship. There is nothing wrong with not having a significant other. After all, eventually you will find your special someone. Some people have to wait a little longer than others to find that someone.

People think a relationship is only significant if it is between a romantic couple, but whether you're waiting for them or you've already found them, your boyfriend or girlfriend isn't the only person with whom you should be in a significant relationship.

I'm not promoting polygamy. I'm proposing we change our definition of a significant relationship. The relationship couples share is only one type of significant relationship.

Friendships also can be significant. You can form lifelong friendships with your roommate, your co-workers, your classmates and even your parents. True friends back you up, commiserate with you and cheer you up when you're upset. Because of their support, friends provide a very important and significant relationship in everyone's lives.

Friendships can teach you important traits, just like a romantic relationship. Friendships can teach loyalty, respect and how to interact with others who might think differently than you.

Since coming to college, my roommates and I have become good friends. The support I receive from them when I'm up late studying for a test, receive a bad grade on a paper or come down with the flu has been overwhelming. They've also introduced me to people I would have been too shy to talk to otherwise, and as a more introverted person, this has helped me become a more confident, outgoing individual.

Instead of putting your life on hold until Mr. or Mrs. Right comes along, surround yourself with the people who already love you. Spend time with your family and friends. If you haven't already, find yourself a good friend who supports you and with whom you enjoy spending time. Focus on different significant relationships, and eventually you will have the perfect romantic partner.

Most importantly, enjoy another kind of relationship — the one you have with yourself. You have to live with yourself your whole life, and it's important that you respect yourself if you want to lead a happy, satisfying life.

Do what will make yourself proud, and if you're single, take advantage of it. Being single has its perks. You only have to worry about yourself. You can work for that promotion or travel around the world without worrying about how it affects anyone else. Your personal relationship is important. Respect yourself and follow your passions.

When you have a good relationship with yourself, others can't help but notice. The people who truly love you will be there to support you.

And that is pretty significant.

## INDEX Classifieds

660-785-4319

### For Rent

**For Rent:** Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2013-2014 lease. New units with one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking and maintenance staff. For more information, call 660-341-5538 or visit [www.wespaces.net](http://www.wespaces.net)

**For Rent:** 3 bedroom house for rent near Truman and A.T. Still. new carpet, laundry, dishwasher, central air, 90+ furnace, plenty of off street parking. Available immediately. \$960.00/month. 970-318-8902 or 815-519-6509

**For Rent:** Spacious 1 bedroom apartment with character one block from TSU. 505 S. Davis #1 has perfect location, living room, large bathroom. \$300 KPM 665-6380

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### For Rent

**For Rent:** Several nice 1-2-3 bedroom apartments in the Water Works, Boardwalk, St. James, States Avenue, and New York Avenue apartments. All within walking distance of Truman. Call Four Horizons Realty, Inc. (660) 665-3400 or e-mail us at [4horizonsrealty@cablone.net](mailto:4horizonsrealty@cablone.net).

**For Rent:** HIGH QUALITY MODERN 2 AND 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS NOT CLOSE TO CAMPUS BUT IN GEOGRAPHICALLY SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE AREAS. (CALL ONLY) FOR DETAILS: 660-626-7695

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**For Rent:** 1 bedroom efficiency apartment approx. 2 blocks from TSU. All utilities included. No Pets \$300 per month. Available AUG 2013. Call Corey Sanford 660-341-1324 or leave message.

**For Rent:** Two bedroom duplex, two blocks from TSU, total electric, includes stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer, outside storage area, off street parking \$585.00 rent, \$585.00 deposit. Call 660-341-4627

### For Rent

**For Rent:** NEW COLLEGE HOUSING! The Landing at Kirksville. 6 different 4 bedrooms for rent. 1/2 mile from Truman! Pricing varies. Contact DVRA Development Group at (660) 988-3885.

**For Rent:** Nice 3BR 2BA townhome located between TSU and KCOM. All appliances including washer and dryer. Attached garage. Low utilities. Available now or for next school year. 909 Sundown. KPM 665-6380.

**For Rent:** 3-4 Bedroom 10 yards from campus. 601 E. Patterson is spacious and has great character. Washer and dryer. Won't last long at \$900. KPM 665-6380.

**For Rent:** 4 bedroom, 2 bath apartment for rent, available Spring 2013 semester, central heat/air, washer/dryer, fridge, garbage disposal, large rooms, off-street parking. No smoking, pets or loud parties. \$615/mo. 660-341-7121

**For Rent:** 4 Bedroom 2 Bath Apt. Available August 2013. Newer Kitchen and Baths. Stove, Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Washer, and Dryer. Call 660-341-7529

### Miscellaneous

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**FREE Skating Party** hosted by Eklesia Campus Ministry Sun. Jan. 20 @ 4 PM at Leisure World. Youth-led worship service at Church of Christ, 110 Pfeiffer Ave. @ 6 PM.