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Critical thinking redefined

University hopes to improve campus-wide critical thinking processes through proposal

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The Pathways Critical Thinking Task Force presented a proposal for a new critical thinking framework and rubric yesterday during the Graduate Council's November meeting.

The framework and rubric, which also were presented to the Undergraduate Council earlier this month, aim to create a centralized vocabulary to be used as part of the critical thinking process university-wide, task force chair Natalie Alexander said. The proposed framework could change the way professors talk about and teach critical thinking by changing the vocabulary they use, she said.

The task force was formed about a year ago to improve critical thinking throughout the University as part of the new state accreditation process, Alexander said.

She said the Higher Learning Commission asked the University to identify areas for improvement for the next accreditation period and the University chose critical thinking as one of those areas. The task force must create and implement an innovative plan for critical thinking by the next accreditation period, which will be during 2014, Alexander said.

The task force's research about theories for critical thinking and its use at other universities during the past year indicated that students attending institutions with university-wide critical thinking vocabulary and rubrics had better critical thinking skills, Alexander said. Members of the task force have been working to create a similar situation for Truman State by developing a plan to improve current critical thinking practices throughout all university departments.

"We are already teaching critical thinking [at Truman], but it's not happening in a systematic way," Alexander said. "And it's not

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Ashley Jost/Index
Garet Nunan, manager of Nunan Meat Market, holds up one of the largest bucks the market had gotten in during the first few days of rifle season Monday afternoon. The Market is one of many places that is processing deer for customers, but the only business in Kirksville that's processing for the "Share the Harvest" program.

Deer season benefits economy, programs

BY ASHLEY JOST
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With another deer season in progress, area retailers, deer processors and food pantries have begun to flourish with the benefit of the hunting traffic.

Walmart store manager Doug Nichting said the Kirksville store ranks in the top three of all retail outlets in the state for deer tags, comparable to Bass Pro Shop

and Cabela's.

He said the sporting goods department of the store has experienced a 100 percent increase in volume during the season. He said hunters from around the country come to purchase supplies as they head in or out of town to their hunting spots.

Nichting said he's spoken with customers from across the country, from Pennsylvania to Louisiana, who all come to Kirksville and Northeast Missouri because of the area's famous deer population.

Hunting and sporting goods for the store are ordered about a month in advance to make sure hunter's needs are met, but Nichting said, with their ever-changing, needs things sometimes fall through the cracks.

"This year we ran out of some camping supplies," Nichting said. "We make note of that to try and correct it for next year. Some of [the hunter's] habits change, and what they use."

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Missourians for Equality officially files petition

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
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Missourians for Equality filed Nov. 7 to place an amendment on the ballot during the 2014 election to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity throughout Missouri.

Currently, junior Aaron Malin, Missourians for Equality Executive Director, said Missouri citizens can be fired or evicted for being gay or transgender. Missourians for Equality wants to amend Missouri law to prevent this.

Malin said if Missourians for Equality can get 150,000 signatures by May 2014, the amendment will be on the ballot during the November 2014 election.

"Currently, the LGBT community in Missouri is not protected under the current laws," senior Monica Nelson, Missourians for Equality cofounder, said. "That's just not right anymore. They're no different from any other person, and they deserve equal rights just the same as any other person in the world."

Malin said Missourians for Equality chose to go through the initiative petition process because he thinks it is the best chance for success. Because the Missouri House and Senate are both a Republican super majority, Malin said he does not think such an amendment could pass through Missouri legislature.

"No matter what kind of things we include in our proposal, they're just very adamant that



Submitted Photo
Junior Aaron Malin, left, and senior Monica Nelson, right, co-founders of Missourians for Equality, file their petition Wednesday afternoon to the Secretary of State's office in Jefferson City in order to begin collecting signatures.

they do not agree with it because it goes against their morals," senior Kelsey Smith, communications director, said. "We just think it's going to take way too long and nothing's actually going to get accomplished, so we want to bring it to the people and see what the people think."

Malin said he thinks the initiative petition process will be successful because of recent gay rights victories across the nation, specifically the legalization of gay marriage in four states during the Nov. 6 election.

"[Election night] will be remembered as a historic day in the LGBT rights movement because the national tide turned," Malin said. "We believe this is an indication of our chances for success."

Malin said he also thinks the recent election increases the chances for success because organizations that typically would fight an anti-discrimination amendment currently are working to fight the legalization of gay marriage.

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KPD campaign aims to prevent burglaries

KPD gives advice to students to prevent burglaries during break

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The Kirksville Police Department will be placing fliers on the doors and cars of Truman State student off campus residencies during the next few days to promote awareness of burglaries before residents leave for Thanksgiving break.

During most University breaks, when students leave their apartments and houses for days or weeks, the community sees an increase in thefts and property damage, detective Jeremy Cordray said.

"People know that students will be gone, and [others] won't be checking on those residences, and some things get left behind," Cordray said. "Everybody needs to do their part to help."

The majority of the issues last year occurred during winter break, so the current awareness campaign from the police department will continue until students leave for the winter break Cordray said. He said the department still sees issues during Thanksgiving break each year, which is why they decided to pursue the campaign.

"We made some arrests last year and recovered some properties," he said. "[For some] victims, before they even came back and knew their properties

were broken into, had their stuff returned to them."

Cordray said protecting or hiding valuable items is one of the most important precautions. He said people should either place valuables in a safe or take them home. He said if the burglar can't see the expensive televisions, music players or other valuables, they could be less likely to rummage to find more.

Cordray said residents should contact their landlords to take care of any security features that will help prohibit burglars from entering their homes, such as fixing doors that might not lock all the way or changing security lights.

"A lot of landlords, especially the ones who have apartment buildings, want to do things to stop the burglaries from happening because they're taking a loss for the property damage," he said.

Doug Porter, Four Horizons Realty owner, said about a dozen of his apartment buildings were vandalized during winter break last year. He said he hopes to notify residents to be conscious of bringing their valuables home.

"We run a fine line between letting people know and scaring them to death," Porter said. "I don't really want to do that, but I'm going to create something [to give to the residents]."

Porter said 12 doors and door jams were ruined during the burglaries last year. He said Four Horizons will do everything they can to make sure break ins won't

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