

New COPLAC research grants available

BY KAITLYN DANIELS
Staff Reporter

Truman State students are the only students throughout Missouri who have the opportunity to conduct research within their subject of interest using the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges research program grant.

For the first time, Truman was the only college in Missouri chosen to participate in the Distance Mentored Undergraduate Research program with the COPLAC grant that will begin for students this spring. COPLAC is a national consortium of colleges and universities that provide undergraduate research to open a wide range of faculty expertise to students seeking to conduct research.

COPLAC director Bill Spellman said the Council received the grant from the Teagal Foundation in New York City during May 2012.

"The idea of the COPLAC program is if a student is interested in a particular research idea but there is no one on the faculty or a person who specializes in that area at their college, the student could find another faculty member at another COPLAC campus and work with that faculty member under his or her direction using Distance technology," Spellman said.

He said this type of program, which allows one Public Liberal Arts campus per state, has never been done before. Of the 27 colleges selected, 11 are participating. This is the first version of this project. If the

program proves successful during the next two years, COPLAC hopes the consortium will fund its continuation after the grant is used.

"We will be asking students and faculty mentors about how the project is going," Spellman said. "When they finish the project they will be doing an evaluation comparing working in a distance environment with working face to face."

He said COPLAC's grant program allows colleges to tap into expertise throughout the country through the COPLAC consortium.

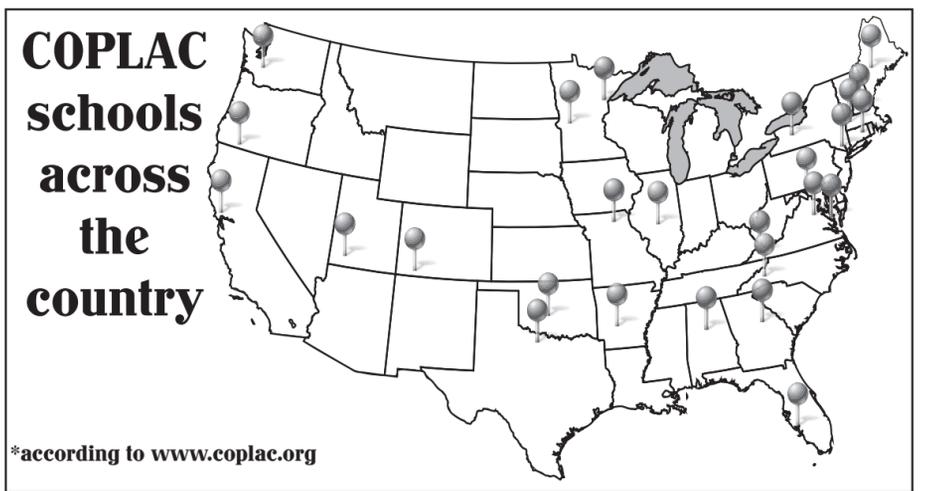
"Admissions officers could be recruiting students by saying 'look at Kirksville, Missouri, we have a fine faculty', but you are not limited in the types of work and research you can do by the faculty range here at Truman," Spellman said.

He said the COPLAC grant opens more areas of research for students' junior or senior undergraduate research projects.

There is a trend in higher education — to get students in the laboratory, the archives, the special collections in libraries and actually do what Spellman said he thinks is first and second year graduate research.

"It strengthens the student's abilities and is a way to become an active learner rather than sitting in a classroom absorbing information from the faculty member," Spellman said.

Maria Nagan, Office of Student Research Director, said this program will benefit Truman because it isn't a research-intensive institution. In-



stead, Truman's focus is educating undergraduates.

Nagan said because all Truman's faculty are scholars of their field, students are limited to areas of study and there might be an inadequate number of mentors in others. She said this program ideally is suited for a self-directed, independent student who wants to develop a project with a mentor in a mutual area of expertise.

Nagan said the program works by letting students take a class at Truman within their major that they normally would take for course credit. The credit would count for the research work. Students would have an on campus mentor enter the grade for them and an off cam-

pus mentor assign the grade. The students will receive \$500 for supplies and travel for their research.

Nagan said she finds mentors for students based on what the students are interested in researching. She said the student contacts the mentor and after communicating the student and mentor can form a relationship. If the relationship works for them, she said they can apply.

"It's a hands on, get deep in the material sort of process where you get to learn about a particular area that you care about and are interested in and you get to use all the skills that you learned in all of your courses," Nagan said.

Senior Summer Jensen said she

is interested in the COPLAC program because Truman doesn't offer a social business course or a faculty member who has done research in social business before. Jensen said she is talking to many organizations and professors regarding how to do research about social business, and she took advantage of the COPLAC grant to expand her options.

"Here at Truman, you have to settle for the courses we have and the majors we have so it would be really beneficial for students if they were able to think outside the box," Jensen said. "In order to think outside the box you have to have the foundation to do that and the resources that are available, more than what we offer here at Truman."

Wastewater plant requires updates

State-mandated updates could boost customer costs down the line

BY JACCI GUTHRIE
Staff Reporter

Kirksville's wastewater treatment plant is planning a major renovation to meet stricter requirements from Missouri's Department of Natural Resources.

The estimated cost of the plant upgrades, which will include new equipment and total renovation of treatment processes, most likely will create an increase in sewer user fees for town residents, Public Works Director John Buckwalter said.

Buckwalter said the plant operates on a five-year permit that identifies how much wastewater or water mixed with waste matter can be treated and what can be discharged into the water. The plant's current permit expired last year and the treatment process is not expected to meet the estimated permit expectations to make processes more environmentally sustainable, he said.

He said residents are not at risk because of the expiration, policies have just changed and the plant needs to adjust to changing expectations.

City Council members toured the plant six months ago as part of the process to apply for a new permit, mayor Richard Detweiler said.

Detweiler said the plant was built during the early 1970s and since then has had one upgrade during the 1980s. Many of the outdated processes throughout the plant hurt the already run-down equipment, he said. Detweiler said this creates more mainte-

nance costs within the plant.

Duane Covington, wastewater treatment plant supervisor, said the upgrade plan includes raising the maximum amount of water flow that comes through the plant. Covington said this would help the city to support any future businesses that want to move into the area by providing an excess of available water to use for their facilities.

Although the exact cost for the project is tentative, Detweiler said he expects it to cost about \$20 million. The costs could be paid for with a general obligation bond that is sent to the voters for approval. Then the bond is repaid through user fees, he said.

Detweiler said he realizes what the impact of an increase in utility bills would mean to residents. However, utility billing has to generate enough income for the bonds that already are in place, he said.

The plans won't be finalized for 12 to 18 months, Detweiler said. He said it's impossible to determine how much sewer user fees will increase, but he said he hopes after plans are finalized the increase in costs will be minimal.

Detweiler said the upgrades are critical to the economy to protect citizens and encourage companies to move to Kirksville with adequate available resources. He said the plant should not just meet requirements, but exceed them.

"It is a balancing act between what you can afford to do and what you want to do," Detweiler said.

Buckwalter said the design plans for the wastewater treatment plant renovation will be completed by May 2013 and sent to the DNR for review.

MDC proposes wildlife changes

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS
Assistant News Editor
index.newseditor@gmail.com

The Missouri Department of Conservation Regulation committee approved two proposed amendments to the Wildlife Code of Missouri regarding deer breeding and hunting facilities in an effort to protect Missouri deer.

The two amendments will indefinitely suspend the authorization of permits for establishing new wildlife breeding and big-game hunting facilities housing white-tail deer or mule deer throughout the state in an effort to combat the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer, said Randy Doman, MDC protection division field chief.

CWD is a neurological infection that attacks a deer's nervous system tissue, such as the brain and spinal cord, said Marsha Jones, Adair County Conservation agent. She said scientists theorize that the disease is spread through nose-to-nose contact between deer and contact with infected feeding sources.

Jones said CWD is thought to have been brought into Missouri by infected deer transported from another state. Five wild deer with CWD have been found throughout Missouri. All cases were found within a six-county containment zone that includes Adair County, she said.

The goal of the amendments is to minimize the amount of transportation of deer within the state, Doman said. He said this will limit the number of healthy deer potentially exposed to an infected deer that has been transported from another area in order to populate a new facility.

"When you get involved in inter- or intrastate movement of captive cervids, that can have the potential to increase the risk of the spread of the disease," Doman said.

The proposed amendments must go through a process before they can become regulations, he said. Both proposals were published by the MDC in the Missouri Register on Oct. 1, Doman said. Missouri residents can view the proposals until Oct. 31 and voice comments or concerns regarding the proposals at the MDC website.

The public comments will be reviewed by the Regulation Committee and the amendments will then be adjusted appropriately, Doman said. The amendments will then go through MDC's chain of command and eventually will be voted upon by the Conservation Commission. If the Commission votes to pass



Stock Photo
Whitetail deer throughout Missouri are being threatened by Chronic Wasting Disease, a neurological infection. The Missouri Department of Conservation is working to stop the spread with two new wildlife code change amendments.

the proposals, the changes will be filed through the Secretary of State's office, he said.

Doman said MDC does not know how long this process might take. If the amendments are approved, no new permits will be given for an indefinite period of time, he said.

The MDC also is putting other measures in place to help stop the spread of CWD, Doman said. Two hunting regulations were changed earlier this year for the six counties within the containment zone and the MDC is working on a long-term plan to fight the disease, he said.

"We're doing our best to contain [CWD] in that six-county area because it's a very serious concern," Doman said. "[Eliminating the disease] is a very high priority for the department."

Senior Garrett Grider said he frequently hunts throughout Missouri and he said he is not too concerned about CWD. He said he thinks the hunting season will eliminate most of the threat of the disease spreading.

Jones said questions or concerns regarding CWD or new hunting policies can be directed to the regional conservation department at 660-785-2420.

The proposed amendments can be found at www.sos.mo.gov and citizens can voice their opinions about the code at mdc.mo.gov until October 31.

The Kirksville Primary School Parent Teacher Association

would like to thank the following organizations for making our 2012 Family Fun Night a huge success!

- Alpha Gamma Delta
- Alpha Sigma Gamma
- Blue Key
- Cardinal Key
- Circle K
- Nursing Student Association
- Phi Epsilon Kappa
- Rotoract
- Service Living Learning Community
- Sigma Chi Delta
- Student Public Health Association
- Tau Lambda Sigma

Over 175 volunteers from these organizations helped raise \$9,900 for the school!

Thank you for serving!

Kirksville Property Management LLC

The Housing Source in Kirksville

Visit us at, 1605 S. Baltimore, Suite D
www.KirksvillePropertyManagement.com,
or call 660.665.6380