

ROTC changes command

Lt. Col. Steven Petersen joins Truman's ROTC staff to replace Lt. Col. James Tenpenny

By Sam Sherman
For the Index

Due to Lt. Col. James Tenpenny's promotion to Battalion Commander, Truman State's Army ROTC program has changed leadership.

Lt. Col. Steven Petersen was given the official title of military science Professor and Cadet Commander, a position chosen by the United States Army after what Petersen said was an extensive selection process.

Truman's ROTC program had an official change of command ceremony Oct. 18 in the Student Union Building during which Col. Dean Shultis ceremonially passed the program's flag from Tenpenny to Petersen. Army regulations dictate a majority of how the program is run, but Petersen said he isn't looking to make any specific changes to it.

Petersen worked at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in Fort Belvoir, Va. before getting the promotion, and Tenpenny said he will do a good job at picking up the program where Tenpenny left off.

"Steve Petersen is the right guy to take this job," Tenpenny said. "He understands that it's not about the person sitting in this desk or in this office, it's about the program. It's about the cadets. It's about their training."

Tenpenny said the main purpose of the ROTC program is to produce leaders for the United States Army, a program Petersen said he went through 20 years ago at the University of Northern Iowa.

"My professor of military science had a great impact on my life and my career," he said. "I remember him like it was yesterday. My hope is that I can have that type of a positive influence on the cadets that come through this program."

Once Petersen received word from the United States Army that he had received the promotion July 6, he moved his family to Kirksville and started learning from Tenpenny about the basics of leading the ROTC program. He also attended a week-long ROTC command course taught by the Army before taking command of the program.

Senior ROTC cadet Travis Cain said



Col. Dean Shultis passes the unit colors to new ROTC department chair Lt. Col. Steven Petersen. Lt. Col. James Tenpenny, left, stands at attention after relinquishing the colors.

Petersen has done a good job immersing himself into the program and getting to know all of the cadets he is commanding.

"I see [Petersen] almost every day," Cain said. "He's gotten to know the real

basics, like what my major is and what I like to do. I'm sure he's done that with a lot of the seniors, especially, and probably some of the underclassmen as well."

Cain said the leadership change will be noticeable to the cadets because of

the difference of military backgrounds and experiences between Tenpenny and Petersen. Tenpenny and new commander Petersen earned their military experience in different parts of the Army, but both have large military resumes.

Petersen began his Army career as an ROTC Cadet at the University of Northern Iowa before taking the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course and becoming an EOD officer. He has been deployed to Africa, South America, Europe and Asia and most recently was deployed to Iraq during the War on Terror until April 2010. He worked at Fort Belvoir, Va. at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and said he worked on counter-proliferation of arms, ammunition and explosives. Petersen has received the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and three Meritorious Service Medals.

Tenpenny has been involved in three different military campaigns throughout his career and was deployed to Panama during the Operation Just Cause campaign, the Gulf War and also the War on Terror. He has been deployed to Iraq three times and Afghanistan once, flying Blackhawk helicopters as an aviator with the Army. Tenpenny has received the Bronze Star twice, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal three times and the Air Medal twice.

Tenpenny said during his time as professor of Military Science at Truman State he tried to use his military experience to help instill a sense of leadership and duty in his Cadets, because the ROTC program is responsible for making the students into officers for the United States Army.

Tenpenny said he's sad to leave the program and the University because of the amount of support he's received while at Truman, but is excited for his new position at Fort Riley, Kan. where he will be taking command of a battalion of more than 700 soldiers.

"I hope the Truman community has understood how much I've appreciated everything they've done," he said. "My wife, my family and I are very excited to go to the next challenge that the Army has for us."

Petersen gained command of the program immediately following the Oct. 18 ceremony and the Army regulates that he will stay in that position for no more than three years.

Additional Reporting by Becky Smith

Organization gives honors

Local professionals recognized by Kirksville Young Professionals

BY CHELSIE YOKUM
Staff Reporter

Kirksville Young Professionals will host their 2012 fall banquet this evening at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Student Union, where they will be announcing the winners of their second annual Kirksville's "5 Under 40" Award.

The award, sponsored by KVYP and local broadcast outlet KTVO, recognizes professionals between the ages of 21 and 40 who have demonstrated dedication, excellence and professional development with his or her career and commitment to the Kirksville community, according to a KVYP press release.

There will be 22 nominees honored during the event. Of the 22, five are affiliated with Truman State and include Teak Nelson, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Jason Shaw, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Madeline Nash, Residence Life Coordinator and alumnae, Michelle Mollick, from the NEMO Area Health Education Center and alumnae, and John Nolan, President, Chief Operating Officer and founder of Trumascape, LLC and alumnus.

KVYP president Erin Shaw released nomination forms for the award during August. PDF files of the forms were posted on the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce website as well as sent with the Chamber newsletter and to all KVYP members and to media outlets in the area through KVYP's news releases, Shaw said.

The nomination form consists of a series of questions detailing why the nominee deserves to be recognized, Shaw said. The nominations, which were due by Sept. 14, were then collected and sent to the judges. The three judges were chosen for their leadership, professionalism and esteem in the community, and chose the winners based on a rubric provided by KVYP.

She said the rubric breaks down the requirements for the award into career accomplishments, professional development

and community involvement. Judges were given until Oct. 3 to review the nominations and select the winners, which will be kept secret until the banquet.

John Nolan began his business mowing lawns and doing other outdoor work for Kirksville residents during his freshman year at Truman. Founded during 2008, Trumascape originally was a just a source of income to help pay for Nolan's education at Truman, according to Trumascape.com.

"It's really difficult trying to handle all those things, and build your brand and build your workforce and figure out how entrepreneurship works at the same time that you're going to school," Nolan said.

From there, Nolan said he added landscaping to Trumascape's services upon realizing there was no company in the area focused on high-end landscapes. Because there was not a lot of competition in that particular area, Trumascape grew quickly, he said.

"As we started gaining a commanding hold on the share of the landscape market in town, I said, 'I think I can make a career out of this,'" Nolan said.

In addition to his work with Trumascape, Nolan was nominated last year to be a board member for KVYP. As someone who came to Kirksville, built a business and stayed here after graduating from Truman State, Nolan said he was a good fit for KVYP's ideals.

Nolan said his philosophy in business is to never stop moving.

"He who sits dies," Nolan said. "When you're always moving and you're always trying new things and you're never afraid to get into a new market or try something else, you're going to be successful eventually."

Jason Shaw, who received his Bachelor of Science in theory at Iowa State University, master's degree and Ph.D in probability at Indiana University, was hired by Truman during 2005 for a visiting assistant professorship of mathematics and statistics.

Shaw acquired tenure last year and is up for a promotion to associate professor this year. He has served as the Undergraduate Council Representative for the Department of Mathematics and



Madeline Nash



John Nolan



Jason Shaw



Michelle Mollick



Teak Nelson

Computer Science for two years, and began serving as the faculty adviser for Student Senate last year. He serves on the University's wellness committee, and is the chair for the statistics curriculum committee within his department.

"I thought [my nomination] might be a little premature," Shaw said. "I'm happy to be nominated, but I feel like I can do a little bit more within the community so that I feel like I deserve the nomination a little bit more. I'm thrilled that I'm nominated; I just hope that they find five individuals that deserve it more than I so that it keeps me motivated to perhaps win it in the future."

Madeline Nash began studying pre-Master of Arts in Education as a student at Truman. After learning from a professor that a teaching job was not right for her and that a job as a school counselor would be more suited to her talents, Nash entered Truman's Masters in Counseling program, and eventually graduated as a nationally certified counselor, with a provisional license as a certified K-12 counselor. After that Nash worked for two years as a counselor for Victims Support Services. Following her time at VSS, Nash moved to Truman's University Counseling Services.

However, Nash said she realized she needed to find opportu-

nities to interact with students who already were doing really well, and this led her to her current position with Residence Life.

"I knew that I would have an opportunity to come over and work with students who were already doing well, and I could help them do even better and challenge them in ways that would help them grow and continue to be better and brighter," Nash said.

Nash said while she sometimes gets embarrassed about special recognitions, she appreciates being recognized for her work.

Although Nash said she's not at the point where she's thinking about another big change with her career, she is sure she will decide to make a change at some point.

Mollick, Executive Director for the nonprofit health education agency Northeast Missouri Area Health Education Center, worked with AHEC for 10 and a half years. After graduating from Truman with degrees in speech communication and psychology, Mollick was hired by A.T. Still University, where she learned about AHEC.

Rather than recruiting outside health care workers to NEMO, AHEC focuses on the children from the local rural communities, preparing them to be competitive and go to Truman to become health care professionals, Mollick said.

"If we focus on the rural kids

here, they're the ones that are more likely to want to come back and work in these small towns," Mollick said.

Mollick said she recently accepted the position Director of Sponsored Programs at ATSU.

She said working with AHEC prompted her interest in working for a mission-driven organization and in the health care field.

"I hope to continue to have that opportunity to be in management and have people trust me, and that I can continue to become a better leader," Mollick said.

Winners of the award will each receive a personalized wooden plaque, Erin Shaw said.

Although KVYP does not in particular recruit Truman students to their organization, any student older than 21 interested in joining can do so, Shaw said. KVYP can be contacted through their email, kirksvilleyp@gmail.com, or through their Facebook page, at "Kirksville Young Professionals (KVYP)."

"We're just continually trying to grow," Shaw said. "We have monthly events. We do Lunch & Learns, Networking Happy Hours and Board Meetings that anyone can participate in. We have an anniversary event every summer, the banquet in the fall and we try to do quarterly philanthropy events as well."

Kirksville Young Professionals will host their 2012 fall banquet

7 p.m., tonight at the Baptist Student Union