

## Kelrick heads efforts to increase campus environmental awareness

BY EMILY PLOCH  
Staff Reporter

As biology department chair Michael Kelrick plans to retire next semester, students worry what will happen to environmental efforts on campus.

During his 28 years working at Truman State, Kelrick has been a primary resource of influence and information for organizations that want to make Truman more environmentally friendly. For many courses and organizations that dedicate themselves to the green initiative on campus, Kelrick offers important guidance that helps generate progress.

"Intellectual innovation aimed at addressing the many challenges that are all around us is a very important way to understand something," Kelrick said.

Kelrick said he worked on the Green Thumb Project, which aims to educate members of the Kirksville community about gardening and self-sustainability. Through projects like this, Kelrick said he not only contributes to the campus, but also to the community.

Although no one can predict what will happen to the work of these groups after Kelrick's retirement, students and Kelrick said they remain hopeful about the future of the projects, with or without his input.

"In my heart, I do truly believe if something is good it will establish itself by the virtue of its goodness, despite the fact that I know fully well that this is not the only determinant of what will happen," Kelrick said.

Senior Sophie Krautmann, president of the Communiversity Garden, said Kelrick assists students who strive to make Truman a greener campus as the adviser for the Communiversity Garden and Environmental Campus Organization.

She said groups such as the Communiversity Garden and ECO rely on Kelrick's experience to conduct successful environmental projects and to maintain a green initiative.

Krautmann said she thinks that because Kirksville is a rural community it has many opportunities to improve the environment. She said students involved with these organizations have the potential to benefit from their surroundings. Through these programs, the University also can work more closely with the Kirksville community.

"Dr. Kelrick has been such a driving force behind all of these projects — he's the one that everybody goes to," Kraut-



Katey Stoetzel/Index

**The Communiversity Garden is located behind the old Child Development house. Senior Sophie Krautmann, Communiversity Garden president, said the garden relies on biology department chair Michael Kelrick's experience to function.**

mann said. "He's got the ins and outs around campus."

Because Kelrick spreads environmental awareness throughout the community and the University, concerns about what will happen to those projects have been made apparent by students, including sophomore Rebecca Elder, president of ECO.

Elder said many students' passion and dedication to environmental issues contribute to the campus' overall sustainability. She said through his efforts, Kelrick not only teaches students about their environment, but how they can create change within it.

"I think the students who are here right now are invested enough in the projects that Dr. Kelrick has run to work to ensure their implementation after Dr. Kelrick leaves and while we are still at Truman," Elder said. "However, students are only at Truman for so long, so the long-term sustainability of these projects are still in jeopardy without having Dr. Kelrick or another faculty member to permanently ensure continuation."

Krautmann and Elder also are members of the "Grassroots Environmentalism" course Kelrick is advising this semester.

During the course, Kelrick said students work on projects in association with environmentalist organizations on campus. The course is student-led — Kelrick said he acts as an adviser by overseeing students' efforts and making suggestions. Recently, there was a donation run by ECO to help students of the "Grassroots Environmentalism" course build victory gardens around Kirksville.

Because the grassroots environmental course is so different from other biology courses, as well as the other environmental efforts on campus, Krautmann said students want to ensure it continues after Kelrick retires.

## SMEP hosts falafel sale to raise awareness for Middle East conflict

BY MACKENNA  
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Copy Editor

Students for Middle East Peace is selling falafel sandwiches on The Quad to raise money for women in the Middle East and to collect school supply donations for the Revolutionary Association for the Women of Afghanistan.

SMEP will host the falafel sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and tomorrow on The Quad. SMEP is a student organization committed to raising awareness regarding the various conflicts in the Middle East with the hope that increased public awareness will inspire action toward peace.

Falafel is a vegan deep-fried ball of ground chickpeas and spices. SMEP will sell pita pocket falafel sandwiches for \$3.50, and students can add lettuce, dressing and other toppings.

SMEP president senior Victoria Meeks said SMEP has hosted successful falafel sales before raising \$300 last semester, and she hopes for an even better turnout this semester. SMEP now is able to accept debit and credit cards as well as cash because the group purchased a Square card reader, Meeks said.

"A falafel is to a Middle Eastern individual like a hamburger is to someone from the United States," Meeks said. "You can get them anywhere — on street corners they'll have vendors. They're really tasty."

Meeks said this sale is to raise money for women in the Middle East and to collect donated school supplies for Revolutionary Association for the Women of Afghanistan. RAWA advocates for women's rights and an independent, free, democratic and secular

Afghanistan. It is illegal for women to attend public school in Afghanistan, so the school supplies go to women there so they can learn in their homes, Meeks said. The money SMEP raises will go toward shipping these school supplies and donating to RAWA.

Some of the money also will fund a showing of "Wadjda," a Middle Eastern film, on campus.

"I think sometimes when people hear of a foreign film, they think of something really low quality or difficult to understand, but this one is really accessible which is one reason we picked it," Meeks said.

Meeks said the film is about a young girl who is trying to get money to buy a bicycle, so she enters a Quran-memorizing contest. Boys ride bicycles, and girls don't do that type of thing. The film is the young girl's journey through school and getting the bike, Meeks said.

"Wadjda" is the first Saudi Arabian film to be directed by a woman, Haifaa Al Mansour, the first film to be shot entirely in Saudi Arabia and the first Saudi Arabian film to have a female lead. "Wadjda" will be shown 5-7 p.m. April 13 in Hall 1000. The showing will be free and SMEP will collect school supply donations, Meeks said.

Mark Appold, philosophy and religion professor, is the SMEP adviser and is in charge of the Middle East summer study abroad course. He said he has been the adviser since the group was founded six years ago. Appold said he has participated in the falafel sale many times during the past.

Appold said the sale is a lot of fun and SMEP can make the falafels as fast as it sells them. When the

group was founded, he said members wanted to bring speakers and films to campus to inform students about the Middle East, and they started hosting the falafel sales to raise money for those events.

"It's a very nice lunch at a reasonable price," Appold said.

It's also a way to generate support for the larger issues to which SMEP is committed, Appold said. The group was formed in response to the Middle East course that Appold teaches, and he said every summer he leads students to the Middle East where they experience authentic Middle Eastern food.

"On our trips falafels are pretty standard eating, and the idea when we came back was, why not sell falafels here," Appold said. "Students who are exposed to [the Israeli-Palestinian conflict] then also begin to feel the urgency for talking about it and presenting, so when we get back here we do our best to communicate some of those issues."

SMEP member senior Jordyn Williams said she got involved with SMEP after going on the trip with Dr. Appold.

"I knew several of the people," Williams said. "I was interested in the Middle East in general and I knew Dr. Appold. I knew that was a good place to start."

Williams said she will help with the sale this semester, and she is hoping for good weather. She said the sale went so well last semester they sold out several times. Williams said she is excited SMEP is able to show a film this semester because it has had difficulties showing films during the past because of copyright laws.



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