

Italian filmmaker visits Truman

BY CLAYTON BERRY
Staff Reporter

Fred Kuwornu, African-Italian filmmaker and director, visited Truman State last week to show students two of his historical documentaries, present contemporary issues about immigration and migration, and to discuss with students what it means to be a citizen anywhere in the world.

Kuwornu presented the documentary "In-side Buffalo," which was about a segregated African-American combat unit serving in Italy during World War II. He also presented another documentary, "18 IUS SOLI," about the more than one million children living in Italy who currently are denied citizenship.

Kuwornu said he was inspired to film his first documentaries after working as an assistant to Spike Lee, American film director and producer, during his movie, "Miracle at Santa Anna," which was filmed in Italy during 2007.

Kuwornu, a born-and-raised Italian, said he made his documentaries to raise awareness about segregation among Italians. He said he wants people to know how it affects everyone on a worldwide scale by reinterpreting the definition of citizenship and what it means to be a citizen of one's own country.

Kuwornu said emigration is becoming much more common throughout the world than during the past. He said it is now much easier than before to travel abroad, stay in contact with family and friends in one's home country and have a residence in multiple countries. He said because of

this, there is a new generation of multilingual and multicultural people who are more open-minded to the diversity of their communities. However, Kuwornu said many countries — particularly Italy — use outdated citizenship policies that do not keep up with increasing rates of emigration that make it much harder for immigrants and their families to attain citizenship documentation.

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Fred Kuwornu, African-Italian filmmaker and director

"Migration is changing but some societies are not as flexible with this change," Kuwornu said. "Immigration and migration needs to be approached in a new, global context, not just a local one."

Kuwornu said the majority of citizen applications in Italy are denied or take years to process. He said this includes children who were born in Italy, but whose parents never received proper documentation. He said this is partly because of strict citizenship requirements. For example, Kuwornu said for a child with two immigrant parents to obtain citizenship, they must reside in Italy for 10 consecutive years without traveling outside the country for a period longer than three months.

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link between an individual and his community," Kuwornu said. "Our societies need to work on including all people within these links."

Italian professor Marie Orton said she was happy Kuwornu visited Truman, and said is Truman is the 10th school he visited during his tour across the country. Orton said his documentaries had a wide appeal, attracting students and faculty from more than eight Truman disciplines. She said in terms of migration laws, many people were completely unaware of Italy's citizenship laws and how the issue relates to people in other countries.

"Both films have an overwhelming theme that identity has to be negotiated," Orton said. "I feel like that's an issue that impacts every single person regardless of their discipline or personal story."

Orton said she received funding and support from the Film Studies Minor Committee, the School of Arts and Letters, the Classical and Modern Language Department and the Kirksville Film Circle to provide an honorarium for Kuwornu's visit.

Margherita Parlange, freshman Italian international student, said she was aware of these issues beforehand but did not know how much of a struggle it is for some immigrants in her country to gain citizenship documentation. She said she is happy to be an Italian citizen and have the opportunity to study in different parts of the world.

"Sometimes we need to see different people and learn their experiences to realize how lucky we are," Parlange said. "I am glad I had this opportunity."

VCR/VHS | Truman to discontinue VCR/VHS support for classroom use, will instead convert to DVD format

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people have been particularly negative or particularly positive. That's the way things are going to be ... technology is changing so we have to change with it."

IT Technical Director Jim McNabb said from a technological standpoint, the biggest issue with the transition is copyright law infringement.

"We cannot just simply convert films from one format to another without first trying to find titles on modern media," McNabb said.

Within ITS, McNabb has worked with Hackney and various faculty to assure the transition continues without difficulties. The formal mandate to end support came from ITS originally, so McNabb's role is one of an administrator.

In the blog posts on the ITS website, McNabb's team wrote that ITS technical staff are available to provide guidance during the turnover and a Pickler classroom will remain open as a group viewing room with VHS/VCR capabilities in case a class must use this technology.

McNabb said the transition process is going well, and many instructors have contacted

the library to purchase their favorite resources on new media. He said others are working to select new resources that achieve their learning objectives.

McNabb agreed with Hackney about the difficulties in navigating legal terms and communicating adequately to allow the process to flow as smoothly as possible.

Psychology professor Sal Costa said he uses VHS/VCR devices in his classes and has had issues with the media transition.

"When you do copy, the quality becomes pretty [poor]," Costa said. "It's just really murky and really shadowy. You don't want to use something like that in a classroom."

Costa said he uses about three VHS tapes in his psychology courses, but in the Junior Interdisciplinary Seminar course he teaches, he uses about 10 tapes.

Costa said he was informed by email from the people responsible for the transition that he had the option to use Pickler Library to purchase higher-quality DVDs for his classroom about nine months ago, but when that wasn't an option for a certain tape, he found it difficult finding VHS/VCR movies on YouTube.

SORORITY | A new chapter of Delta Phi Epsilon will be founded next year

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After processing feedback from current Greek Life members, Johnson said the extension committee voted to extend the invitation to Delta Phi Epsilon. She said the sorority returned their acceptance early Tuesday, and she thinks the chapter will be a positive addition to Truman's Greek Life community.

"We have a great feeling that they're going to be able to reach out to women who have been wary about the recruitment process, who went through it and didn't find what they were looking for," Johnson said. "Truman's campus has a lot of trailblazers. Being a founding member, we think, will have a lot of appeal for Truman's women."

Laura Bates, director for Student Involvement, said the new sorority first will undergo a colonization process. She said the developing chapter will work to meet the requirements given by

the national Delta Phi Epsilon group. She said after meeting membership standards and other national and campus-mandated requirements, the Delta Phi Epsilon colony will be able to apply for official chartering with their own organization. Bates said she is optimistic the sorority will find potential members at Truman because of the recent large numbers of women interested in joining Greek organizations.

"The hope is that we see — based upon number of women coming out and not getting matched through the process — that there is a large pocket of women here that might be interested in this opportunity," Bates said.

For more information about Delta Phi Epsilon and the new chapter coming to Truman, email greeklife@truman.edu or visit the Facebook page for Delta Phi Epsilon at Truman State University.

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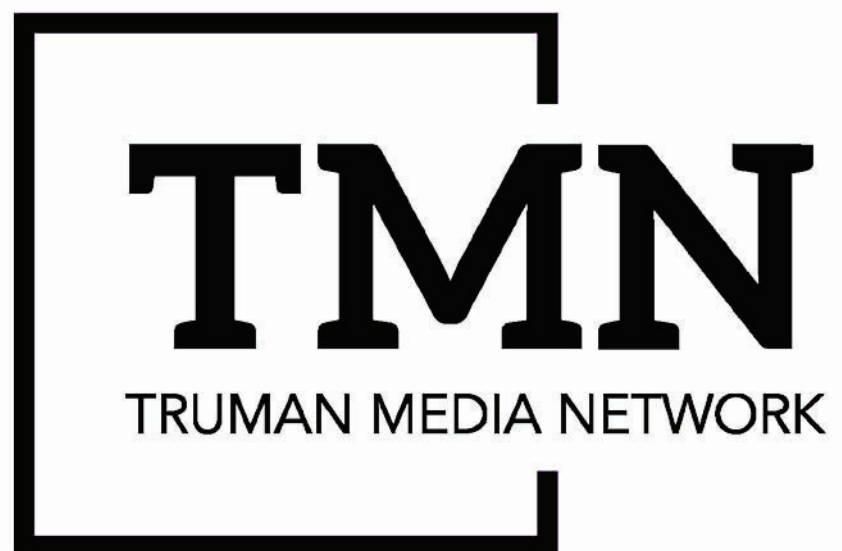
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