A long journey to home at Truman

Truman professor draws on colorful background, love of teaching to enchant students

Loretta Palmer
Staff Reporter

Selling his van earned Mark Spitzer $600 in 1993. However, the experiences the money helped create have stood the test of time. Spitzer, assistant professor of English, took the money and flew to France. He worked and lived at a bookstore in the middle of Paris translating French poetry for two and a half years in an office full of spiders and cobwebs underneath a bookstore in the catacombs of Paris.

Spitzer had never taken a French class before making this journey. Instead, Spitzer said he decided to learn French by translating a 20-page poem by French poet Jean Genet during his time at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

“I didn’t have the patience to study [words like] moms and dads and cats and dogs, so I set up an independent study to translate these poems by Jean Genet with a French professor,” Spitzer said.

After he completed the requirement, he decided to combine translating French works and made his way to France. Spitzer said that when he arrived in Paris, the bookstore owner, rather than being put off by Spitzer’s appearance at his doorstep, immediately changed his attitude when Spitzer told him of his work on the Genet piece.

Spitzer also had received his bachelor’s degree in English and creative writing from the University of Minnesota in 1990 and his master’s in creative writing from the University of Colorado-Boulder, where he went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge, where he went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge.

Spitzer, now in his third year of teaching at Truman, said he tries to impress upon his students the importance of their work in college.

“College work is really important, it’s the most important thing you can do,” Spitzer said. “It’s more important than going to the keg or meeting your pals. If you have to stay up all night to get your paper done, that is what you should do. It will pay off in the end.”

After his experience in Paris, he made his way back to Colorado, where he had a job landscaping. At this time, he said he decided to continue traveling for the University of Colorado-Boulder, where he decided to attend a workshop for the University of Colorado-Boulder.

While at LSU, Spitzer met his future wife, Robin Becker, in a poetry class. Spitzer and Becker married in 2002, and both now teach English at Truman. Spitzer said he enjoys Kirksville for a variety of reasons, but one in particular stands out above the rest.

An avid angler, Spitzer said he loves the fishing environment in Kirksville. During the summer Spitzer fishes daily either at Hazel Creek or Forest Lake. His love for fishing is apparent in his novel "Bottom Feeder," which was published in 1999.

Spitzer always has enjoyed writing, and said he thinks it is an opportunity for people to work on projects that are important to them.

“I think that [writing] is something of which I’m very conscious,” Spitzer said. “I look forward to going to bed so that I can get up and work in the morning.”

Some students say his passion for writing and interesting topics is apparent in his classes. Senior Emmie Pettit took Spitzer’s class "Nonfiction Creative Writing: Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll" during the spring 2005 semester and left the class inspired by Spitzer.

"[I learned] a lot in his class, about myself and my own writing because of the interesting discussions he had in the class and the freedom and non-limitations that he put forth," Pettit said.

Spitzer said the class write a short story and submit it to a magazine.

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Spitzer’s laid-back personality prompts students to talk to him on a more personal level, she said.
**Self-diagnosis can beat sickness**

Alissa Higgins

Assistant Features Editor

It is probably not life-threatening, but it is not something you should ignore.

Many students make appointments to the Student Health Center, but others are not so sure they need to go. Some students are afraid that they might end up seeing a health professional, Higgins said.

"Students are away from home, often for the first time, and this is something that you would go to except for, and most of them, they said, "Serious health issues are something they might not be sure how to handle in their area of illness."

Higgins said she would not discourage students from coming to the health center if they have a concern, but students should be aware of other health resources.

"The Web site gives a lot of good information about illness, such as allergies and infections, and how people can distinguish it, which it might be, and it also gives some recommended treatments, "she said.

"As much as the residence halls have health facilities, those can generally only get you to a point where your problem is managed, and then you should be seen by a professional."

"You should try to go out and read a book first thing in mind."

The SERVE Center had some other suggestions for students to consider when they are suffering from a health problem.

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The SERVE Center had some other suggestions for students to consider when they are suffering from a health problem.

"The health center is not only here to give students counter-measure and send them home, "she said. "We try to make sure that wasn't what I heard."
Euro costs don’t faze students

San Jose State University

The United States dollar no longer is the only currency that has what it takes to make the marginal exchange (the change). On Jan. 1, 2002, the euro, a new currency made up of the 12 of the 25 in the European Union.

Since then, the exchange rate for the dollar has been constantly fluctuating. "It goes for the dollar in comparison," said David Gillette, professor of economics. "Of the many factors, the dollar is the most used, because it is the most used in the world. It gives people an alternative."

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Alicia Collins
Assisting Editor

I forget how I read for fun. Overnight numerous animals book to school and read as much as possible. I read instead for winter four months. I turned into a book. I absolutely finally arrived. And although I was still completely to end myself. Among the books was the (The Bewilderment of the Night). By Mark Haddon.

The main character, Christopher John Francis Boone is 15 years old. He is autistic and lives with his mother, and his brother, Little John, in New York City. He is obsessed with animals and reading. His father, a renowned professor, passed away when he was young. His mother, Siobhan, is a researcher.

Christopher is a curious child who loves to read. He is fascinated by animals and is passionate about reading. His mother, Siobhan, is a researcher and is always busy with her work. Christopher is left to his own devices, which he finds challenging.

The plot is a mix between the romantic and the suspenseful. The story revolves around the murder of Mr. Maling, a neighbor who Christopher is determined to solve.

The movie is well-written and directed. The performances of the actors are outstanding, especially those of James Franco and Sophia Myles. The cinematography is beautiful, and the music complements the story well.

The central theme of the movie is the search for truth. Christopher's determination to solve the murder is a testament to his character.

The movie raises important questions about human nature and the complexity of relationships. It is a must-watch for anyone who loves a good mystery story.
The Student Activities Board brought steel drum musician Coconut Dave to campus last year, as well as the more popular band CAKE.

**SAB works to find acts**

Hours of effort go into every concert that takes place on Truman's campus

Lauree Miller
Staff Reporter

The Student Activities Board works hard every concert season for Truman campus entertainment activities for Truman students, including everything from comedy acts to holiday light shows.

"It was the first time we had to go that far down on the slate," she said.

Mazzola said the incident was out of SAB's control. "We let that go. We disagreed with students," said Martin. "We tried to reach out to the country demographic, and it did not work out.

Mazzola said that even if the band does not work out, SAB will still send the band to the campus.

"The surveys are used to make sure the student is getting what they want. We even check them with statistic professors," Rebecca Martin, Senior activity coordinator, said.

"The surveys were awarded them with more than 1,000 students who participated in the fall survey that brought CAKE to Truman's campus.

"The surveys are used to make sure the students are getting what they want and what is a feasible option. The compromise between what students want and what can be done. It is important to reach the compromise between what students want and what is a feasible option," Mazzola said.

Andrea Cianciola, professor of English, said that SAB works to find acts that are interesting and very provocative.

"I'm sure there's some teaching moments in that class. You can learn a lot from that kind of person," Cianciola said.

**SPITZER | Professor enjoys giving students 'lessons'**

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"It was the first time SAB tried such a list format, instead of the usual surveys awarded them with more than 2,000 responses.

CAKE was seconded only to Ben Folds in popularity. Martin said.

For the spring concert, SAB e-mailed surveys straight to the students, Martin said.

He's always really thorough with his current faculty and students in their writing and really interested in talking about writing and helping students become more efficient and more learned writers, so I really see a dedication to doing that," Martin said.

"That's something that's sometimes missing from academia, that kind of dedication to teaching and helping people be good for something," Martin said.

"In that class I'm good for some teaching moments," Martin said. "In good for some teaching moments. I stress the urgency of being in this environment. I stress the urgency of being in this environment. I stress the urgency of being in this environment. I stress the urgency of being in this environment." Martin said.

"I've learned that I really love a lot of the students he loves," Martin said. "I've learned that I really love a lot of the students he loves. We have some teaching moments, and that's what's important. But I have a lot of really good students. We have some teaching moments, and that's what's important.

Student Public Health Association

Roger Mladik (MCT)
Art student sends message

Unique concerns show through in Kayla Thompson’s artwork as part of her senior capstone

Lauren Miles
Staff Reporter

Tucked away in a hall of Ophelia Parrish, for the Bachelor of Fine Arts Student Show, eyes are confronted with the image of an adorable, black baby boy.

Thompson, senior in art therapy, said it was a picture from the beginning of her senior capstone. "The painting of the child is the face, and the words are the underlying idea," Thompson said. "But if you paint a child, you can understand what a child actually drew that they can’t understand what it is they’re trying to draw," Bohac said. "The children are very well privileged children, although none exactly were abused.

"Fellow students are also involved in critical thinking," Bohac said. "But the decisions are entirely up to the artist." Thompson chose to do portraits for her Bachelor of Fine Arts Student Show, a project she worked at a day camp where she dealt with underprivileged children, and Thompson said she wants to work with issues of child abuse. Her mother, Associate professor in art John Bohac, Thompson’s art department teacher, said that an artist’s work reflects two things: "what he or she knows about art and what he or she knows about life. "It’s the past and the artist coming together," Bohac said about Thompson’s final piece of work.

Thompson, who initially knew she wanted to work with issues of child abuse, said that her project was "the beginning of a process, and to make a direct connection to the picture."

"It’s her past and her education coming together," Thompson said about Thompson’s final piece of work.

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