Some students embrace unusual on-campus jobs

Jenna Meyer

Feeling dead mice to make of cleaning out a horse's stall is not unusual for some on-campus jobs.

The herpetology lab and the Brickly Outdoor Instructional Laboratory, formerly known as the University farm, are examples of the more unusual student jobs available on campus.

Unlike many on-campus jobs, herpetology lab workers do not sit at a desk and answer telephones.

“Most of the animals in the lab are reptiles,” senior Dan Beaury said.

“The herpetology lab is a small room in the Magruder Hall basement that is used from fall to winter with cages. Most of the animals in the lab are reptiles. Sophomore Christina Gray works in the herpetology lab for the Biology 105 lab as well, but she said she enjoys working in the herpetology lab more.”

“This is so much more interesting, and you come in any time you want,” Gray said as a small snake crept up her arm. “My favorite part of the job is feeding the animals in the hallway and people coming out of class start screaming with fear when they talk past.”

Beaury works in the herpetology lab for institutional pay. She normally does not keep his paycheck, however.

“All of our peckishness go back to being fed and more cages,” Beaury said. “If we didn’t, nothing would happen in the lab.”

Beaury said the herpetology lab was severely cramped before the opening of the new Magruder Hall.

“The food is provided by students or workers. Bill Kuntz runs the farm and said few of the 22 students that work for him live in the house at the farm. He said these students receive the harvested corn and beef for the nearly 11 hours of work they put in on the farm.

[Student work payments are important to us],” Kuntz said. “The farm would not operate without our farm.”

Junior Teresa Pafford has lived in the house at the farm, the farm workers’ home.

“Senior Teresa Pafford has lived on the farm for two years and has worked here for three years,” Pafford said. “She helps with the corn in the evening while I am working out here with the other campus jobs, but not much.”

Pafford said her normal duties included helping Campbell divide the other half of the house at the farm. She said soon she will be cleaning out the dead beehive and helping Campbell divide the other half of the house. She said they have to make sure everything is in order. She is a part of a large group project that took several weeks to fulfill.

She said she had never worked with reptiles before coming to Truman, but she said she has learned a lot from working in the lab.

Beaury said he took the herpetology lab more as a class and supervises the herpetology lab for institutional pay. He is interested enough to be needed experience with animals.

Field as crews on the weather improves. Pafford said that after classes, they cover evening chores and have to bring the horses back into the barn.

Right now, Pafford said the farm workers are watching the pregnant cows. She said they have to make sure that when a calf is born, it can walk and feed without problems. Pafford said spring is an exciting time because of all the animals being born.

Pafford said that after classes, they cover evening chores. She said that the animals are fed, we make sure everything stays where it is, the crops are in order, and the calves are handled. They walk past.

Beaury said they walk past. They sell them at a later time.

Other students also find themself working at the farm on occasion.

Senior Susan Meierhoff has planted grass on the farm and will harvest it. She said she posted for the day. She said she has learned a lot from working in the lab.

Beaury works in the herpetology lab for institutional pay. Beaury supervised the other campus workers.

“The farm is another campus job that really would not operate without our farm.”

Pafford, an agriculture science major, said she wants to go into agriculture business. She said that at the end of her freshman year, she heard about jobs available on the farm.

“Teresa worked outside, and I’m an animal lover,” Pafford said. However, she said she had not been around many farms until she came to Truman.

Beaury said, “The farm, and city, and I came by here. I had no farm experience at all.” Pafford said she graduated on the farm and put a lot of effort into taking care of the place. Last year, the farm workers tore down the “Mirror Mink,” which is a group of outdoor horse stalls, and moved them close to the barn areas. This was a large group project that took seven weeks to fulfill.

Senior Jason Peecher, who is majoring in agriculture business, said that he wants to go into agriculture business. He said that after classes, they cover evening chores. She said that the animals are fed, and people coming out of class start screaming with fear when they talk past.

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