Twelve Graduates Named Valedictorian

Twelve graduates received top honors at Truman’s spring 2003 commencement exercises held May 17 at Stokes Stadium. Each valedictorian had a perfect 4.0 grade point average for all subjects. Pictured from left to right are Brooke Sherrard, Sarah Yancey, Clint Borgstadt, Thomas Harper, Jennifer Altis, David Fieleke, Jennifer Main, Cancan Ma, Mircea Negrea, Kristin McFarland, Anne Lutjens and Katylin Mayhle.

Lee Selected as Presser Scholar

Richard Andrew (Andy) Lee, junior music performance and mathematics double major from Liberty, Mo., has been named a Presser Scholar for the 2003-2004 academic year.

The Presser Scholarship is given to an outstanding music major at the end of his or her junior year. The foundation’s grant of $4,000 was awarded to Lee at the spring Fine Arts award ceremony April 29.

Lee is a piano student in the studio of David McKamie, professor of music.

Weidner Named Director of Student Union

Mark Weidner has accepted the appointment of Student Union Director effective July 1. He succeeds Doug Daubert who will be moving to Maryville, Mo.

Weidner has worked at Truman for the last 12 years as an academic adviser for Academic Planning Service and currently as the Head Academic Adviser in Missouri Hall as part of the Residential College Program. Prior to working at Truman, Weidner worked in Residential Living at SUNY Purchase, and in Admissions at Long Island University, C.W.Post campus.

Weidner received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from SUNY College at Purchase and his Master of Arts degree in student personnel services from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Weidner is a recipient of the William O’Donnell Lee Advising Award in recognition of excellence in academic advising and is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

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The Chariton Valley Audubon Society, the Truman biology department and the Missouri Department of Conservation are co-sponsoring a project to document the breeding bird community at Union Ridge Conservation Area northwest of Kirksville June 7.

Contact Pete Goldman at 785.4632 or e-mail pgoldman@truman.edu for more information.
Matthew Killmeier, assistant professor of communication, and Capt. Jim Hughes of the Kirksville Police Department, presented a Non-Violence Methods Forum to the public on April 14, organized by the Truman chapter of Amnesty International. Both speakers gave presentations to educate politically minded students about effective methods of non-violent dissent. Killmeier’s presentation explained methods of effective lobbying and communication with the newspaper and television media, including suggestions on advocacy and good communication with the business, industrial and working-class community. Hughes related his experiences with vigils and non-violent dissent and gave some insight and suggestions as to how to maintain safety, and understanding in the community while preserving the right to dissent. Gloria Kwok, associate professor of French; Andy Hilgartner, physicist and author; Wolfgang Hoeschele, assistant professor of geography; and John Quinn, associate professor of political science; presented a panel discussion of historical and scientific issues relating to the War in Iraq on April 17, also organized by the Truman chapter of Amnesty International. Kwok presented a history of the French and American involvement in Indochina, in southeast Asia and its pertinence to the present day situation. Hilgartner gave a presentation on the tremendous menace of depleted uranium resulting from first and second Gulf wars in Iraq. Hoeschele gave a presentation on the German-American perceptions of the war and a comparative discussion of contrasting mainstream thinking in Germany, the United States, as well as other parts of Europe and Asia. Quinn presented a discussion of arguments both for and against the war from the standpoint of the Bush administration, basing the case for on the notion of “rogue states” and defensive pre-emption, and basing the case against on the dangers, losses and illegitimacy of the notion of “pre-emption.” Amnesty International would like to thank these speakers and all the members of the public who participated and attended these forums and discussions, for their time and their dedication.

Heidi Templeton, director of public relations, and Howard Worcester, recycling/surplus coordinator, presented “Campus Recycling: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly” during the Missouri Recycling Association Annual Conference held May 12-14 in Lake Ozark, Mo. Their presentation was part of a session about recycling on college campuses.

Nnadozie Featured as This Week’s Technology Champion

Emmanuel Nnadozie, professor of economics and director of the Ronald E. McNair Program, is this week’s featured Technology Champion.

The Technology Champions are a group of faculty and staff who collectively have expertise in 65 area of technology, particularly software applications and their use. The Technology Champions have agreed to be available to answer your specific questions about their respective areas of expertise.

Nnadozie uses technology every day to help him prepare for his classes. Excel, PowerPoint and BlackBoard are some software packages that he uses for his own preparation and in his classes.

Nnadozie believes that using technology in teaching has many benefits, chief among them are the ability to have regular communication with his students and to give them fast feedback to their questions and on their tests and quizzes. Using Excel and BlackBoard allows him to set up online discussions in his classes, to provide class related materials for his students and to build interactive exercises into his classes. Students build their computer skills by using some of this same software to do homework assignments and to prepare for class. Regular use of e-mail by Nnadozie and his students helps to keep teacher and students in close communication throughout the class. He uses Survey Solutions software to poll students for their thoughts on the class and how it is progressing.

To seek Nnadozie’s assistance on any of the software mentioned above, feel free to contact him at 785.5393 or at nnadozie@truman.edu.