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Students showcase midterm break service opportunities

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TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

EXCELLENCE SINCE 1909

THE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PRODUCED NEWSPAPER

tmn.truman.edu

176 REPORTED CASES DURING **2015**

STATES WITH THE MOST INCIDENTS:
CALIFORNIA – **118**
ILLINOIS – **14**
NEVADA – **9**
WASHINGTON – **7**
ARIZONA – **7**

145 cases from seven **U.S.** states are considered to be part of a large, ongoing **outbreak** linked to an amusement park in **California**.

- Measles still is common in some countries in **Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa**.
- Travelers with **measles** continue to bring the disease into the **U.S.**
- Measles can spread in **U.S.** communities among **unvaccinated** groups of people.

| SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CURRENT MEASLES TRENDS IN THE U.S.



Outbreak unlikely at TSU

BY ROBERT OVERMANN
Editor-in-Chief

Put down the hand sanitizer, don't order that biohazard suit and feel free to go out with friends — there's almost no chance of a measles epidemic at Truman.

Although the United States currently is experiencing a multi-state measles outbreak, sources said there is little chance of an outbreak at Truman State because of the University's immunization policy and containment plans. However, they voiced concerns about increasing numbers of students who resist compliance with the University's vaccination policy.

Brenda Higgins, student health center director and family nurse practitioner, said Truman's immunization policy requires all students born on or after Jan. 1, 1957 to have an initial measles vaccination as well as a booster vaccination.

Only students granted medical or religious waivers are exempt from the immunization requirements, and serological titers — blood tests to determine degree of immunity to measles virus — are required of these students to determine their degree of immunity to the measles virus, Higgins said.

"We have some students on campus that might only have one [of the two required measles vaccinations] since there does have to be a 30-day slot in

between immunizations," Higgins said. "We do put holds on adding and dropping classes for students who aren't compliant with the [measles immunization] policy, so that's how we monitor that kind of thing."

Higgins said if a measles case were to be identified on Truman's campus, unvaccinated students could be required to leave campus until the outbreak has passed and would not receive a refund for campus tuition or fees during the period they were not allowed on campus.

Higgins said the anti-vaccine movement does concern her, though she said she doesn't think the number of students resisting vaccination would be considered statistically significant.

"I believe we are pretty prepared [for an outbreak], but from the perspective of someone who has been here for several years, I do think the numbers of people who don't want to get vaccinated have been increasing somewhat," Higgins said.

Higgins attributed the increasing numbers of students who resist getting the measles vaccine to the relatively low rates of this contagious disease that the Millennial generation has enjoyed.

Higgins said college age students have not had to deal with contagious diseases as much during their lifetimes because of "herd immunity," or the pro-

tection an unvaccinated portion of the population receives from a majority of the population having been vaccinated. She said now that herd immunity is decreasing, contagious diseases will be more of a concern for the health center.

"Hopefully this measles epidemic we are seeing might at least heighten concerns about epidemic disease for [younger] generations," Higgins said.

Higgins said the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine costs \$72 at the Adair County Health Department for those without insurance, but for those who are younger than 19 and are insured, the vaccination is provided free of charge by the Vaccines for Children program. She said insurance plans generally pay 100 percent of the cost of vaccinations, but titer testing has much more limited coverage by insurers.

Higgins said if a student continues to resist Truman's immunization policies, she and her staff will meet with the student and their parents to explain the risks and consequences of not being immunized.

"They usually understand why it's important after we talk with them," Higgins said. "They're probably at greater risk than when they were in public school because they are living with other students. College students tend to share a lot of spit and other bodily fluids."

See MEASLES, page 3

Truman Admin say HLC visit went smoothly

BY LUCAS MEYRER
Staff Reporter

Accreditors from the Higher Learning Commission visited Truman State to review the academic status and competency of the University in person March 2-3, during which students and guest reviewers discussed various elements of the University.

The HLC visit, which occurs once every 10 years, followed a 3-year internal accreditation process during which a team of Truman faculty, led by psychology Karen Vittengl, University President Troy Paino's Administrative Council and the Board of Governors, reviewed and exhibited the reasons why Truman has been doing enough to earn academic re-accreditation.

The visit consisted of meetings with groups involved with Truman and HLC accreditation, including the HLC Leadership Team chaired by Vittengl, according to the Office of Academic Affairs website.

A series of open forums allowed students and the public access to the accreditation process and Truman's perceived strengths and weaknesses. The accreditors also were given a tour of Truman's facilities and campus, according to the website.

The five accreditors sent from the HLC are academic peers from various institutions who are tasked with conducting the meetings and reviewing the University's application for re-accreditation.

Vittengl said logistically, the visit went very smoothly, and said Truman would not find out about its success or failure to gain re-accreditation until late this summer.

"It's too soon to know whether they noted any specific problems," Vittengl said. "The reviewers submit their report to HLC, and we get an opportunity to respond."

Vittengl said they had a pretty good turnout for the open forums, especially from faculty and staff, and a closing lunch with student representatives, which Vittengl said was probably a high point of the visit for the accreditors.

Six students with various campus roles ate lunch and discussed the University with the accreditors.

One of the students at the luncheon was freshman Kyra Cooper of Student Senate. Cooper said the accreditors asked the students why they chose to attend Truman and if they would choose to go there again, given the chance.

"[The accreditors] ... said that it seemed like we were getting a private school education at a public school cost, which I thought spoke to their impression of the school," Cooper said.

Cooper said students discussed the elements of the school they valued most highly.

Cooper said some students spoke about specific departments and support they received from the departments within the major from available professors. Other students spoke about their various clubs and organizations, she said.

See HLC, page 3

TSU recognized as top Fulbright school

TAYLOR LAY
Staff Reporter

Truman State was recognized as a top producer of Fulbright Scholars for the 2014-2015 academic year, acknowledging student potential for international service, teaching and research.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's top funded international exchange program, according to the State Department and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Fulbright Program is designed to increase mutual understanding between

the people of the United States and people of other countries. The program provides the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Truman was recognized for excellence in the U.S. Student Program branch. This branch gives fellowships for American graduating college seniors, graduate students and young professionals to study abroad for one academic year.

Truman students can apply for either the English Teaching Assistant or

Research fellowships by the fall semester of their senior year to be eligible for the program after graduation.

Maria Di Stefano, Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, is the adviser and campus coordinator for the Fulbright Program. Di Stefano said applying to the program is free and open to students of all academic backgrounds. She said students who previously have studied abroad are able to apply for the fellowship. She said students must apply through the University, not independently.

See FULBRIGHT, page 3

City plans to build glass recycling storage bunker

JOHANNA BURNS
Staff Reporter

Following the approval of a \$100,000 grant for glass recycling, Kirksville's Community Services Department is working to set a time frame for the construction of a glass recycling bunker that will comply with the Solid Waste Management Fund grant planning requirements.

City staff received confirmation of the grant during December 2014 and began planning for the construction of a bunker to house the glass adjacent to the public works complex. While city officials hoped to construct the bunker by fall 2015, the bunker will not be completed until sometime next spring.

The fund was established to help finance landfill alternatives and will pay a portion of the costs of building the structure, to which the city will also contribute \$35,000, according to a Feb. 18 press release. The release also stat-

ed that the responsibilities of the Solid Waste Management District include planning requirements for the bunker and the administration of allotted funds.

Community Services Coordinator Sarah Halstead said she hopes the program will be operational by next spring. She said Kirksville residents interested in glass recycling will be able to purchase — for a fee of \$10 or less, which will depend on the level of community participation in the program — a glass recycling tote for curbside pickup. Halstead said Advanced Disposal will pick up the glass once per month.

Halstead said Truman also plans to collect glass recyclables that will be picked up by Advanced Disposal. She said there will be an alternate drop-off location for residents and students who do not wish to purchase the tote. There will be a scheduled drop-off time and location for residents of surrounding counties that will coordinate with the Hazardous Waste Program. Halstead

said there also has been some interest in putting a glass recycling dumpster in the downtown area, although there are no solid plans for that yet.

"The big thing is we just want to try to do everything we can to be environmentally friendly ..."

-Sara Halstead
Community Services Coordinator

Halstead said the new program will have a small economic impact for the city in general and could increase job stability for collection truck drivers. The glass in the bunker will be sold to Ripple Glass, a glass recycling program out of Kansas City, at a dollar per ton. Public

works employees will load the glass onto the Ripple Glass trucks.

"It helps with job retention," Halstead said. "It may even produce more jobs in the area."

The goal of the program is to decrease the amount of materials going into landfills. Halstead said they have been working closely with the Department of Natural Resources to make sure every aspect of the project adheres to the department's regulations and there is no contamination of the collected glass.

"The big thing is we just want to try to do everything we can to be environmentally friendly as well, and help our citizens to be environmentally friendly," Halstead said.

Halstead said the city will begin advertising the new program through press releases and Kirksville Connection publications — which are distributed with water bills — once the recycling totes are available for sale.



Criterion One
Mission



Criterion Two
Integrity:
Ethical and
Responsible
Conduct



Criterion Three
Teaching and
Learning: Quality,
Resources, and
Support



Criterion Four
Teaching and
Learning:
Evaluation and
Improvement



Criterion Five
Resources,
Planning, and
Institutional
Effectiveness

Higher Learning Commission Core Criteria

Source: ncahlc.org

HLC | Peer reviewers from the higher learning commission visited Truman State last week, touring the campus and engaging students during a roundtable discussion

Continued from page 1
Cooper said the students emphasized how Truman offers a variety of experiences and support to students of different majors. Cooper said she thinks the accreditation process went well, and the peer reviewers had a positive experience.
“The accreditors seemed very receptive to the school and indicated that the visit on the

whole had been enjoyable for them,” Cooper said. “They acknowledged the enthusiasm everyone had for their school, their classes, their clubs and their professors, and I think that will reflect in their report.”
Sophomore Allegra Flores is a student worker for Truman’s accreditation team. Flores, who was also at the luncheon, said her role on the accreditation team was to as-

sist Vittengl in any way necessary by editing documents and researching information.
Flores said she thinks the discussion yielded the honest student opinions the accreditors were looking for.
“All of the students that I was with shared a lot of positive personal experiences that I think reflected well for Truman,” Flores said.

MEASLES | Health professionals weigh the risk of disease outbreak at Truman and agree the odds of widespread measles outbreak in Kirksville are slim at this time

Continued from page 1
Higgins said it is important these students also realize not being vaccinated affects more than just themselves.
“We want them to see this is a decision they are making not just for themselves,” Higgins said. “Often they don’t realize that they would be putting people at risk who can’t get vaccinated for medical reasons. Once you explain this could affect a pregnant woman and she could lose her baby, or the herd immunity could be compromised, they tend to be much more willing to get the vaccine.”
Lou Ann Gilchrist, Dean of Student Affairs, said her de-

partment’s first step if a measles outbreak were to occur would be to contact the Adair County Health Department and develop a plan to protect vulnerable people who cannot receive the measles vaccine for religious or medical reasons.
She said her department has experience with localized outbreaks of disease, but has not faced an epidemic of contagious disease on Truman’s campus. She said her department successfully contained a single case of contagious meningitis a few years ago, and the situation provided a good example of how the department might react to larger-scale outbreaks of contagious diseases such as a measles epidemic.
“There was the bird flu concern a couple of years

ago, and we had a task force that looked at how we might handle an epidemic of those proportions,” Gilchrist said. “We did have an individual diagnosed with a very contagious form of meningitis a few years ago — we met with his close associates and got a list of people who might have been affected. The key thing with that particular disease is letting people know if they were exposed to ensure they get the treatment they need.”
Gilchrist said the department’s response would vary significantly based on the type of outbreak. She said airborne diseases pose a much greater risk than dis-

ease that require more personal contact.
Gilchrist said Truman’s response would depend on what type of disease students are exposed to and the degree of contact infected students have had with others. She said Truman has found safe and secure places in residence halls for ill students on campus in the past to prevent this type of issue.
“The possibility of spreading contagious disease is great when we’re all living and interacting so closely with each other,” Gilchrist said. “It’s something we always need to be vigilant about to ensure our most vulnerable people are taken care of.”
Biology professor Susan Guffey said students usually

are immunized against measles with the MMR vaccination at a young age. She said this is because most school districts in the Midwest require students to receive the vaccination before they arrive for kindergarten.
The measles vaccine contains an attenuated live virus — the virus is not “dead,” but is weakened to a point where it will generate an immune response in the immunized individual but will not cause the disease, Guffey said.
Guffey said a vaccinated person’s immune system responds to the attenuated virus in the same way it would a pathogenic measles virus — the immune system’s B-lymphocytes form antibodies and generate memory clones of protective B-lymphocytes. If the virus ever enters the body again, the body’s memory clones encounter the virus and begin producing antibodies, she said.
Guffey said the measles virus first manifests itself as a respiratory infection accompanied by a cough, sore throat, swelling around the eyes and fever. She said the fever increases and the sickened person develops a skin rash.
“The disease lasts for several weeks, plus you’re very contagious for others,” Guffey said. “In serious cases, you can have complications that can affect your ears, your respiratory system, cause encephalitis in the brain — if we can avoid that by getting vaccinated, we want to not risk those complications.”
Guffey explained that herd immunity allows those who are unvaccinated to be protected from the disease by those who are. She said if someone carrying the virus encounters Truman’s population, those who were vaccinated could not become carriers of the disease and

FULBRIGHT | Truman continues to excel by producing Fulbright scholars

Continued from page 1
Di Stefano said applications open March 31 and close Sept. 15.
“The program is widely recognized for its selectivity and well-recognized across the world,” Di Stefano said. “I believe our students are incredibly capable and we help them see that there are opportunities like this one that is accessible to them is extremely valuable.”
Italian professor H. Marie Orton was a former Fulbright recipient and served on the national Fulbright selection board before teaching at Truman. Orton currently advises Fulbright candidates through the application process. She said after being a Fulbright participant and serving on the board, she knows what the program requires of candidates.
Orton said Truman has been recognized every year as a top producer since joining the program. She said she thinks Truman in particular has been successful because of students’ service-minded nature and experience in teaching and research.
“Schools often get recognized by the committee for being good schools,” Orton said. “Truman has a very solid reputation for sending very solid candidates ... I feel like we really help our students. Luckily, we have a really great track record of people getting the award.”

“The possibility of spreading contagious disease is great when we’re all living and interacting so closely with each other. It’s something we always need to be vigilant about to ensure our most vulnerable people are taken care of.”

-Lou Ann Gilchrist, Dean of Student Affairs

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Biology professor Susan Guffey said students usually

thus provide a barrier for those who are unable to get vaccinated against the virus.
“We surely do have students who aren’t vaccinated for medical reasons, so it’s very important everyone is vaccinated to protect those individuals,” Guffey said.
Guffey said the MMR vaccine is 93 percent effective, although immunity rises to near 97 percent for those who receive a booster. She said there always is a small chance a vaccinated individual didn’t develop the appropriate immune response to an attenuated virus.
Vaccines generally are much less dangerous than any complications that might arise from receiving them, Guffey said.
“The risk of all the complications from measles is much, much worse than any risk of autism,” Guffey said. “There are even worse diseases parents aren’t vaccinating against, too — if parents don’t vaccinate for tetanus, well, that’s an extremely serious disease with a long recovery. People can and do die from

diseases that they could have been vaccinated against.”
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 170 cases of measles have been reported throughout 17 states from Jan. 1 – Feb. 27. Cases resulting from four outbreaks represent 89 percent of these cases, according to the CDC. Six hundred and forty four instances from 27 states were reported to the CDC during 2014, the largest number since measles was eradicated from the U.S. in 2000, according to the CDC. No measles cases have been reported in Missouri during 2015, according to the CDC, although many instances have been reported in neighboring Illinois.
Measles still is common in many areas of the world, including parts of Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa, according to the CDC. The disease likely returned to the U.S. through international travelers who were carriers of the virus, and the majority of Americans who have been subsequently infected were unvaccinated, according to the CDC.

Truman’s HLC Peer Reviewers

Gar Kellom
Director of Student Support Services at Winona State University

Michael Gealt
Executive Vice President and Provost at Central Michigan University

Kara Odell
Financial Analyst at University of Northern Colorado

Faye Vowell
English Professor at Western New Mexico University (former VPAA at Western New Mexico University and Emporia State University)

Beth Pellicciotti
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Quality Programs at Purdue University Calumet.

Source: Press release from University President Paino’s Office



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