

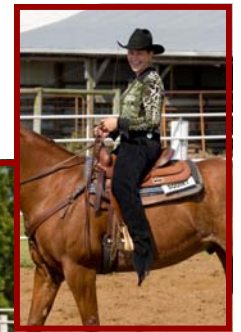
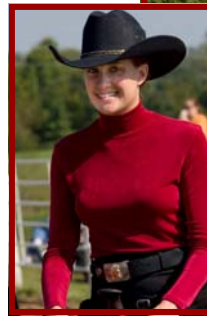
# Agriculture Newsletter

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## Equestrian Team Show a Success

The weekend of September 27-28 proved to be another busy weekend at the university farm. The Equestrian Team hosted their annual stock show with 7 other colleges and universities participating as well as a few alumni riders, including our very own Brandon Hall. Blackhawk College received high point team both Saturday and Sunday, and Missouri State University received reserve high point team both days as well. Truman had a great representation by many of our riders placing first or second. Those receiving a blue ribbon include: Catie



Burke, Kaity Strand, Emily Hale, and Kelsey McFarland. Those receiving a red ribbon include: Adam Priest, Alyssa Harris, Kelsey McFarland, Emily Prouhet, Brandon Hall, and Sierra McCown. The exec board and Coach Emily Costello put a lot of hard work into making this year's

show the best that it has ever been, and it sure was! The show ran very smoothly, the horses behaved very well and no one was hurt. Thanks to each and every Truman rider for all the effort they put into preparing for the show and congrats on a job well done!

### Upcoming Events:

- Bioenergy Conference Dec. 5 (info at [bioenergyconference.truman.edu](http://bioenergyconference.truman.edu))
- Missouri Livestock Symposium Dec 5-6 (info at [missourilivestock.com](http://missourilivestock.com))

## Homecoming 2008

Homecoming 2008 went very well this year. Saturday started with a pancake, egg, and bacon breakfast prepared by the professors, which was a delicious way to start the long day ahead of us! The festivities continued with both exec

boards of the Horseman's Association and the Equestrian Team riding horses in the homecoming parade. A record number of horses, 16, participated and all did very well. The day finished off with the football game in which Truman



Kaitlyn Sullivan and Catie Burke in the parade.

upset the ranked University of Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks 26-20 in double overtime!



## Alumni Profile: Michael Guethle

This month's alumni profile features Mr. Michael Guethle who graduated from Truman in December, 2002 with a degree in Agricultural Science and an Ag Business emphasis. After Truman, Michael moved to Columbia, MO where he received a business degree with a finance emphasis from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Upon graduation from Mizzou, he went to Kansas City to work for the retirement division of JP Morgan Chase administering 401k plans for companies like Southwest Airlines and Coca-Cola Enterprises. After a few years in Kansas City, he moved back home "to the Bootheel in the great state of Missouri" to get experience in finance at a small town bank. Although he enjoyed working for the

bank, he was offered a job with the USDA's Farm Service Agency and couldn't pass it up. Michael says the FSA job of helping farmers is the next best thing to farming for himself. Both of his degrees have helped him immensely throughout the years. He was not only able to find his current job, but he uses the knowledge from them each day he goes to work: "The process of earning the degrees also taught me to critically analyze situations so that I could reason my way through various issues a person faces when merging the worlds of production agriculture, ag finance, and government policy." Michael's favorite part of Truman was all the people and the different backgrounds they came from. He enjoyed that the professors

allowed him to speak his opinion, and most of the fellow students were up for a good debate. Currently Michael lives in the Bootheel with his wife, Sarah, and the newest addition to their family, a daughter, Lorelei, born in August of 2008. Michael says that she's not driving a tractor quite yet, "but give me time." The best piece of advice he has for students is to get internships (yes, that was meant to be plural) in their respective field of interest to get hands-on experience to see if that is truly something they want to do for the rest of their life, and it also get the foot in the door for potential job opportunities after college: "This will be worth its weight in gold if the job market continues to be extremely competitive."

## Student Profile: Avi Karn

The student profile this month features sophomore Avinash (Avi) Karn. Avi grew up in the small industrial town of Birgunj, Nepal, where the industries include textiles, oil, sugar, carpet, and garments. At home, Avi lives with his loving parents and younger brother. Although Avi was not born into a family where ag was the primary source of income, he developed his passion from his grandfather who raised water buffalos, cows, goats, and chickens. His parents wanted him to be a doctor, but he has a strong drive to help out the poor. He

gets depressed when he hears of people starving all over the world and feels that he has a responsibility to help out wherever and whenever he can. Avi found Truman by searching the internet for schools with solid agriculture departments. The reason he chose to venture to school here was that he likes small, quiet towns and he was awarded scholarships which helped him out tremendously. Avi feels that his ag major will not only help him out, but he will be able to help eradicate hunger with his knowledge.

After graduating, Avi would like to do research for the faculty on genetically modified organisms. He would like to find some ways to use the desert soil because most of the available land on the earth is desert. He hopes to find a specific use of such soil for developing crops besides cacti, or try to introduce genes from the cacti into crop plants which would develop the same tolerance capability as in cacti. Avi is very glad he came to school here and he considers himself the luckiest person in the world to find such a great university. The best thing about Truman, he feels, is he can always find a smiling face on campus. A little-known fact



about Avi is that he likes to study UFOs and watch the stars, which makes him think we're not alone. In closing, Avi remarks, "We need more people to get involved in the field of agriculture, directly or indirectly, so that we never have a chance to say that Malthus's prediction was right."

# Bulldog Biodiesel



Article submitted by Josh Hirner, Student Manager of Bulldog Biodiesel. This has been a groundbreaking year for Truman State University in terms of sustainable energy. In the spring semester, Bulldog Biodiesel was officially established through the joint effort of a Senior Practicum group and the American Chemical Society. The group now operates as an independently chartered

campus organization and is currently collecting waste vegetable oil from five sites throughout Kirksville. The oil is then converted into biodiesel, a cleaner-burning alternative to conventional diesel fuel. In addition to providing the University Farm with a low cost, environmentally friendly fuel, Bulldog Biodiesel also provides students from many different majors with the opportunity to participate in a practical, hands on learning experience.

If you're interested in supporting the mission of Bulldog Biodiesel, please visit our website :

<http://bulldogbiodiesel.truman.edu/supporters.html>

to learn how to make your tax-deductible donation. With your support, we can continue to create a more sustainable Truman.

## Where in the World are Truman Aggies: David Chappell, Class of 2007



David Chappell (middle) in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Life has been a whirlwind of adventure since graduating from Truman State University in May 2007! The morning of graduation I had been commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery branch of the United States Army after completing the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Truman in conjunction with my degree programs. Less than a month later, I was headed for Fort Lewis, Washington to report to my first duty assignment as a platoon tactical officer and spent the remainder of the summer training cadets at Warrior Forge, the same training camp I had experienced myself in the summer of 2005 as a cadet. In August 2007, I departed Fort Lewis and headed to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where I completed six months of officer's training where I received comprehensive instruction in the tactical and technical aspects of Field Artillery cannon and rocket fire. After six months of learning Field Artillery in Oklahoma, I received orders to report back to Fort Lewis and was attached to a High Mobility Artillery Rocket Battalion. Immediately upon my arrival in March 2008 I was sent out to the Yakima Training Center for a rocket live fire exercise and the chance to meet my new Commander and new Soldiers that I would be in charge of. I quickly learned that I would be responsible for the health and welfare of 18 Soldiers and also would be overseeing the tactical and technical operation of three rocket

launchers that would be fired by my Soldiers. Upon our return to Fort Lewis from Yakima, I learned of the position of Environmental Compliance Officer. After speaking with my Commander and discussing my course of study at Truman, he decided to appoint me to the position for our Battery. My duties would consist of ensuring the safe and proper disposal of hazardous materials used by the Battery, enforcing the Fort Lewis recycling program, and implementing an energy conservation program. My first priority was to organize an environmental compliance class to teach my Soldiers the importance of recycling, energy conservation, and sound environmental practices. Working with my Environmental Compliance Team, who were enlisted Soldiers in the Battery, I developed a thorough class, integrating the principles of sustainability learned from Truman to build a convincing argument for the importance of sound environmental policy. Throughout my research for the class, I discovered that Fort Lewis had a three-pronged sustainability plan incorporating the elements of mission, environment, and community. Upon further investigation, I found that Fort Lewis is working hard to incorporate sustainability into its current and future policy. Fort Lewis has a comprehensive recycling program, with a goal of zero waste leaving the post by the year 2025, and returns the money generated from recycling to the residents. Fort Lewis also has a compost program, taking

food waste from the dining facilities and turning it into compost to be used for landscaping. Many of the training areas around Fort Lewis also have a dual purpose to serve as sanctuaries for rare and endangered species in the area. After learning about all of the sustainable practices at Fort Lewis, I ensured that my Battery and Battalion were fully participating in every opportunity for sustainability. We are currently participating in a recycling drive that can earn us up to \$250 for resident programs, and our recycle bins that were formerly full of trash are now being properly utilized. Our local dining facility now composts all food scraps, and I am in the process of trying to convince our Battalion of the need for environmentally sustainable cleaning products. Finally, I consistently urge my Soldiers to take advantage of the many Farmer's Markets in the area, regularly bringing in samples of the bounty of the Northwest to encourage them to take advantage of them. Two thousand miles away and in a line of work in which I didn't think I could find a way to utilize my degrees from Truman, I have found a unique and productive way to impart my knowledge of agricultural sustainability to people who have never been exposed to it before. My degrees from Truman continue to serve me well, and also serve to enhance the lives of Soldiers stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington.