

TRUMAN

T O D A Y

Vol. 10 No. 31

a weekly newsletter for students, faculty and staff

May 9, 2006

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES 2006

Spring Commencement

2 p.m.
May 13
Stokes Stadium

Howard Elsberry, president and CEO of Westlake Hardware, Inc., will deliver the commencement address.

There will be a reception immediately following commencement at Red Barn Park.

In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in Pershing Arena and the reception will be in the Student Union Building Activities Room.

Attention May Graduates

Truman Alumni Association, Student Alumni Association, and the Office of Advancement

invite May graduates to the

Senior Picnic

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. • May 10
on the Mall - SUB

Rain site: SUB Georgian Room

The menu will include free hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, barbecued chicken, bratwursts, chips, soda and dessert.

May graduates will receive a free alumni gift bag full of alumni gear - T-shirt and more. Those who cannot attend lunch, may stop by the Office of Advancement, McClain Hall 101, to pick up their free alumni gift bag.

For more information contact Denise Smith, manager of alumni relations, dsmith@truman.edu or Greg Xander, alumni relations assistant, gregx@truman.edu, 785.4133 or 800.452.6678.

Marie Orton Named Truman's 2006 Educator of the Year

Marie Orton, associate professor of Italian, was announced as the 2006 Educator of the Year at the 17th annual banquet May 2.

Orton began her career at Truman in 2000. She received her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and both her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Chicago. Orton previously taught at Duke University and has taught at the Joseph Baldwin Academy every summer since 2001. Having earned a Fulbright Research Fellowship, her primary areas of research are contemporary Italy and Italian cultural studies, autobiography, holocaust literature and immigration literature. Orton is also a mem-



Marie Orton, associate professor of Italian, (right) receives the Educator of the Year award from Becky Hadley (left) at the banquet May 2.

ber of Phi Kappa Phi and the adviser to the Italian Club (CIAO).

This year 102 students nominated a record-breaking 66 faculty members for the Educator of the Year award. The eight-member student committee first narrowed the group down to 12 semi-finalists and then to six

finalists. Finally, after reviewing the written responses by the nominated faculty members, getting input from the students in their classes and observing the faculty members in their classrooms, the committee selected this year's honoree.

Students from Student Senate, the Pershing Society and Phi Kappa Phi serve on the Educator of the Year committee.

Rose Receives Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Lynn Rose, associate professor of history, received special recognition from Gov. Matt Blunt during the luncheon at the 2006 Governor's Conference on Higher Education recently in Columbia, Mo.

Rose was one of 14 outstanding faculty members, each representing a Missouri college or university, to be recognized for her commitment to excellent education for Missouri citizens. Rose was chosen for her



Gov. Matt Blunt (left) and University President Barbara Dixon (right) congratulate Lynn Rose (center) on receiving the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

effective teaching, innovative course design and delivery, effective advising, service to the institutional community, commitment to high standards of excellence and success in nurturing student achievement.

Rose began her career at Truman in 1995. She received both her doctorate and bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. She also received Truman's Educator of the Year Award in the spring of 2005.

Arns Selected as Presser Scholar



Michael Bump, associate professor of music, (left) Truman State University President Barbara Dixon (second from right) and Bob Jones, dean of the fine arts division and professor of art, (right) present Megan Arns (second from left) a check for \$4,000 from the Presser Foundation.

Megan Arns, a junior music and pre-accounting double major from St. Charles, Mo., has been named a Presser Scholar for the 2006-2007 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 Arns at the spring Fine Arts award ceremony in April.

Theodore Presser is remembered not only as the publisher of "Etude," the music magazine, and the founder of the great music publishing firm bearing his name, but as a philanthropist who specialized in music education.

Arns is involved in Sigma Alpha Iota, Alpha Kappa Psi, Percussion Ensemble, Drumline, Wind Symphony and the Truman Percussion Society.

Faculty, Students Present at MSHA Convention

Truman faculty and students presented at the Missouri Speech Language Hearing Association (MSHA) Convention that took place March 31-April 2.

Several students presented poster sessions at the MSHA 2006 convention.

Cynthia Brady, a communication disorders graduate student from Kirksville, presented "The Effect of Independent Practice on Articulation."

Erin Plender, a communication disorders graduate student from Florissant, Mo., presented "Effect of Visi-Pitch vs. Keyboard on Sustained Phonation and Pitch Matching."

Hilary Noll, a communication disorders graduate student from Kirksville, presented "Effect of Biofeedback in a Non-Oral Down Syndrome Child."

Laura Thornton, a communication disorders graduate student from St. Charles, Mo., presented "Melody in Aphasia Therapy."

An oral presentation was given by Carrie Mills, a junior communication disorders major from Columbia, Mo., and Cassandra Bartlett, a junior communication disorders

and Spanish double major from St. Joseph, Mo. Their presentation was titled "Head Start Screening Results: Parent and Teacher Predictions."

Paula Cochran, professor of communication disorders, was the faculty mentor for all of the student presentations.

Faculty members also presented at the MSHA 2006 convention.

Cochran presented "Found Any Good Software Lately?" and "Podcasting 101."

Janet Gooch, associate professor and director of communication disorders, and Cochran presented "Dress for Success (And What Not to Wear)."

Gooch also presented "Minimal, Maximal and Multiple Oppositions - How to Decide?"

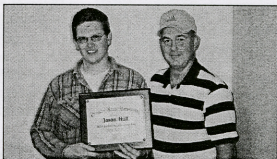
Amy Wilson, assistant professor of communication disorders, presented "Methods of Assessment for Cognitive Status in Geriatric Populations."

The Truman faculty also sponsored the second annual TruBash, a gathering for Truman alumni and friends, on the evening of March 31 at the MSHA convention.

Hull Named 2006 Student Recycler of the Year

Jason Hull, a senior justice systems major from Fulton, Mo., was awarded the 2006 Student Recycler of the Year Award at a ceremony on May 5. Howard Worcester, Truman's recycle coordinator, presented Hull with the award.

Hull has worked at the Recycling Center for the past three years, making a significant contribution to the University's recycling efforts. The Student Recycler of the Year Award is presented for hard work, dedication and devotion to the recycling program.



Jason Hull (left) receives the 2006 Student Recycler of the Year award from Howard Worcester, Truman's recycle coordinator, (right) on May 5.

Pi Kappa Lambda Inducts 15 Students

Pi Kappa Lambda, the national music honor society, inducted 15 students into its membership this spring.

The students who were inducted include (front row, left to right) Kelli Mullarkey, Pam Corder, Avril Frick, Shino Saito, Rachael King, Carol Carlson and Michelle Jones; (back row, left to right) Jennifer Hinkle, Matt Satley, Shelly Layton, Annette Nick, Michael Van Bebber and Ashley King. Jared Brockmeyer and Christopher Gillette are not pictured. University President Barbara Dixon (front row, far right) was also in attendance.



Nursing Program Advisory Council Holds April Meeting

The Truman State University Nursing Program Advisory Council met on April 6. The Council's purpose is to promote the



recognition, welfare and progress of nursing education at Truman through advising and consulting with the Nursing Program.

People at the Nursing Advisory Council meeting include (front row, left to right) Bertha Thomas, Brenda Higgins, Myra Baiotto, Elsie Gaber, Delores Lesseig and Harriett Beard; (second row, left to right) Shirley Riley, Charles Baldwin, Melanie Grgrich, Judi Misale, Alvina Britz, Odessa Ofstad and Alice Allinson; (third row, left to right) Mark Gambaiana, Tim Tucker, Mark Laughlin and Dennis Smith. Martha Gragg, Jack and Sue Magruder, Lesa McCartney, James and Renee McGovern, Peg Ernst, Jill McCord, Toni Smith, Jerry Smith, Renee Brayton, Bonnie Collier, Stephanie Keith and Carol Race are not pictured.

Truman Alumna Presents Undergraduate Research in Washington, D.C.

Stephanie Lê, a December 2005 Truman Alumna who graduated with a bachelor of arts in history, presented her research on Vietnamese migration to the United States at the Council on Undergraduate Research "Posters on the Hill" event April 25, in Washington, D.C. Her faculty mentor for the project, Steven D. Reschly, associate professor of history, accompanied her for the presentation in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

Lê's proposal was one of 60 chosen from more than 300 submissions. The project, titled "The Saigon Moment: Differences among Vietnamese Immigrants to America, Before, During, and After 1975," was supported by a Truman summer research grant. She interviewed 24 Vietnamese immigrants and Vietnamese-Americans, seven who left Vietnam before 1975, 12 who left during and immediately after April 1975, when Saigon fell to North Vietnamese forces, and five who left the reunified Communist Vietnam. She demonstrated that the timing of emigration from South Vietnam was a decisive factor in shaping the cultures of Vietnamese immigrants in the United States. Lê completed the project



Truman alumna Stephanie Lê ('05) and her faculty mentor, Steven D. Reschly, associate professor of history, traveled to Washington, D.C., where Lê presented her research about Vietnamese immigration on April 25.

for the HIST 400 - Senior Seminar in History course taught by Marc Becker, associate professor of history.

As part of the program, Lê and Reschly met with Sen. Jim Talent and spoke with staffers in the congressional offices of Sen. Kit Bond, Sen. Tom Harkin, Sen. Barack Obama, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II and Rep. Kenny Hulshof to promote undergraduate research and support for higher education.

Lê now works for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

True Men 2006 Spring Concert

7:30 p.m.
May 9

Baldwin Auditorium

Admission is free.

Contact Graeme Allen at
660.349.0851 for more information.

General Honors Medal Ceremony

4:50-5:30 p.m.
May 12
SUB Georgian Room

For more information, contact
Cristo Chappell at 785.4109 or
gradinfo@truman.edu.

Library Sponsors Lecture by Noted Conservator

"Little Known Moments in
American History (as seen from the
conservator's bench)"

by Richard C. Baker,
St. Louis book and paper
conservator

9:10-30 a.m.
May 16
Magruder Hall 2001

Baker will present a series of historic documents that illuminate moments in history and illustrate the kinds of problems encountered by conservators.

This lecture is open to members of the Truman community and the general public.

Sponsored by Pickler Memorial Library.

For more information, contact Wanda Cagle
at 785.4038.

Homecoming Judges Needed

The 2006 Homecoming committee is looking for faculty, staff and administration volunteers to judge the events to take place Oct. 16-21.

Judges will be needed for every day with the exception of Wednesday.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Logan Johnson, the points and awards co-chair for the 2006 Homecoming festivities, at 665.9622 or lgj@58@truman.edu.

If you have planned an on-campus event for the upcoming academic year, do not forget to submit it to the Master Calendar at <http://www.truman.edu/pages/203.asp>.

All submissions must be made by someone representing a chartered organization or a recognized department/division/program of Truman State University. Off-campus events will not be posted on the calendar unless they are alumni events affiliated with Truman Alumni Chapters.

Public Relations Internship Opportunity Available

The Truman State University Public Relations Office is now accepting résumés for the fall 2006 internship position.

Interns receive course credit, a stipend and valuable experience in desktop publishing and public relations office duties. Applicants should have a strong background in writing and editing.

Interested students should stop by the Public Relations Office, McClain Hall 100, call 785.4016 or e-mail Katie Best at kbest@truman.edu, before May 11.

New Course Available for Fall 2006 Semester

Students can now register for **BIO 444 - Expanding Environmental Consciousness** for the fall 2006 semester.

Taught by Michael Kelrick, professor of biology.

This will be a student-led discussion course allowing students to explore their relationships to the world around them.

For more information, contact Kelrick at mkelrick@truman.edu or 785.4071.

Student Union Hours

Finals Week Hours

May 8-11
7 a.m.-midnight

May 12
7 a.m.-10 p.m.

May 13
8 a.m.-6 p.m.

May 14
closed

Interim/Summer Hours

Monday-Friday
7 a.m.-5 p.m.

For evening or weekend events, please contact the SUB Office at 785.4186.

Community Sharing Bike Program Provides Alternate Transportation Method for Students

The Community Sharing Bike Program (CSBP) is looking for bike donations, especially from people leaving campus and leaving a bike behind. People who have a bike in virtually any condition may drop it off at the Truman State University Recycling Center, across from the tennis courts on La Harpe. The Recycling Center is open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Friday. People may also do an after hours drop off on the recycling pad, but this option is not secure.

CSBP will postpone services during the summer, due to a lack of "renting" infrastructure. The program will begin again with the start of the fall 2006 semester. The first Maintenance Mayhem workshop on bike repairs will take place during the fall semester. Experienced mechanics will work side by side with novices at this event to fix up and tune up the bikes and teach/learn about bike care.

Students who are staying in Kirksville during the summer and would like to have a bike to meet their transportation needs can contact Cassie Phillips to establish eligibility for an extended summer loan. Participants must register in the program and commit to good bike stewardship by locking the bike up when not in use, resolving minor maintenance issues like repairing flat tires, and preferably keeping the bike protected from rain.

CSBP was started in December 2005 and introduced a fleet of 15 bikes to the Truman community in March 2006. The program is designed to give students and community members easy access to healthy, environmentally friendly and inexpensive transportation. Although the

main coordinators of the program are the Environmental Campus Organization (ECO) and the Mountain Biking Club, the strength of the program lies in its dependence on the generosity and support of many organizations and individuals through donations of time, money, bikes, tools and labor. Through the Community Sharing Bike Program, registered participants can borrow a bike any time the residence hall desks are open. The coordinators hope that the program will grow, inspiring people to look for alternatives to automotive transport.

To register for the Community Sharing Bike Program (CSBP), fill out an official registration form at a CSBP event or any residence hall desk. Make sure you fill out the entire form, including all contact information, and read and sign the waiver at the bottom. Also, fill out an official bike card, including all contact information, and sign the back. On the space for "file binder" write the name of the residence hall in which you are registering. This allows the program coordinators to track the paperwork. However, you may borrow a bike from any dorm. Finally, a worker will confirm your identity and student ID number with your student ID or your license number with your driver's license and file your form.

For more information, contact one of the program coordinators: Cassie Phillips at 660.888.1202 or cassiephillips@care2.com; Michelle Brown at 785.5755 or mlb105@truman.edu; or Michael Herron at 785.5777 or msh907@truman.edu.

Student Union Purchases Student Art

The Student Union purchase prize winners from the Annual Juried Student Art Show are Keila Ferree, a junior art major from Nevada, Mo.; Megan Irwin; a senior art major from Columbia, Mo.; and Mackenzie Smith, a senior art major from Lone Jack, Mo. Ferree was the first place award winner for her mixed media piece, "Untitled." She received \$300. The other two winners each received \$100 as second place winners. All pieces will become part of the Student Union's permanent collection of student art.



Sujit Chemburkar, director of the Student Union Building, (left) and Aaron Fine, director of the University Art Gallery (right) gather with award winners Megan Irwin and Keila Ferree. Additional winner Mackenzie Smith is not pictured.

NOTABLES

Mike Ashcraft, associate professor of religion, recently published, with two co-authors, an article in the *Encyclopedia of Women and Religion in North America* (Indiana University Press, 2006). The article is titled "Theosophy, New Thought, and New Age Movements."

Joe Benevento, professor of English, has been informed that his novel, "The Odd Squad," has been declared a finalist for the Binghamton University John Gardner Fiction Book Award.

Marijke Breuning, associate professor of political science, has been accepted to the United States Institute of Peace 2006 Faculty Seminar "Global Peace and Security from Multiple Perspectives." This seminar will focus on the new international security environment, approaches to managing conflict and new ways of teaching global peace and security. It will take place at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

Ryan Conway, a junior political science and philosophy and religion double major from Kirkwood, Mo.; Krystal Fox, a senior economics and political science double major from Bellevue, Neb.; and Kathryn Sanders, a junior political science major from Crestwood, Mo.; presented papers at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting April 20-23, in Chicago. Conway presented his paper "Authoritarianism,

Regime Transitions, and the First Use of Violent Force," Fox presented her paper "What Affects the Strength of Partisan Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa?" and Sanders presented her paper "Women in Government and the Effects on the Type of Foreign Aid." In addition, **John Ishiyama, professor of political science**, presented two papers at the conference: "Candidate Recruitment in New Democracies - the 2005 Ethiopian Election" and "Europeanization, Electoral Institutions and Party Development in Post Communist Politics."

John Ishiyama, professor of political science, was the editor of a special issue of the journal *Party Politics* that appeared in May 2006. The special issue was on the political performance of formerly dominant parties in authoritarian regimes. The article titled "African Phoenix? Explaining the Electoral Performance of the Formerly Dominant Parties in Africa," co-authored by Ishiyama and **John Quinn, associate professor of political science**, also appeared in that special issue. In addition, Ishiyama was recently invited to present a paper titled "Learning to Lose (and Sometimes Win): The Neocommunist Parties in Post Soviet Politics" at a special conference titled "Learning to Lose: Adapting to Democracy in One-Party Dominant Systems" March 31-April 1, at the University of Toronto.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The **John Gyles Education Awards** are available each year to students in both Canada and the United States. They are the result of a private, benevolent endeavor established in 1990. Full Canadian or American citizenship is a requirement. Awards are available to both male and female students for all areas of post-secondary study. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. Selected students will receive up to \$3,000. The filing date for mailing applications is June 1. Applications are available online at <http://www.johngylesseducationcenter.com>.

The **Missouri Department of Natural Resources is offering an Environmental Education Scholarship Program (EESP)** designed to provide scholarships to minority and other underrepresented

students pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree in an environmental course of study. Applicant must be a current Missouri resident, graduate of an accredited high school, have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or if enrolled in college, having a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and enrolled as a full-time student in a Missouri post-secondary institution. Qualified candidates must be pursuing a degree in one of the following areas of study: civil, chemical, mechanical, agricultural engineering or environmental engineering; environmental areas such as geology, biology, wildlife management, planning, some aspect of natural resource management or a closely related field; environmental chemistry, or environmental law enforcement. Applications are available in the Truman State University Financial Aid Office. Application deadline is July 1.

Pickler Memorial Library Hours

May 9-11
7 a.m.-2 a.m.

May 12
7 a.m.-6 p.m.

May 13
noon-5 p.m.

May 14
closed

May 15-19
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

May 20-21
closed

May 22-26
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

May 27-29
closed

May 30/June 1
7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

June 2
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

June 3
1-5 p.m.

June 4
4-8 p.m.

Summer hours 2006

[June 5-July 30]

Monday-Thursday
7:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday
1-5 p.m.

Sunday
4-8 p.m.

Student Recreation Center Hours

May 9-10
9 a.m.-11 p.m.

May 11-12
9 a.m.-7 p.m.

May 13-14
closed

May 15-19
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 20-21
closed

May 22-26
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 27-29
closed

May 30/June 2
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 3-4
closed

The next issue of the *Truman Today* will be published June 6. Submissions for this issue are due by May 31 to kbest@truman.edu. The *Truman Today* is published biweekly during the summer.

Sodexo is sponsoring the Generous Helping Hunger Relief Initiative now through May 12. Sodexo is assisting in raising additional funds by purchasing specified manufacturer food and supply products. One hundred percent of the additional funding earned will be distributed to the Sodexo Foundation to support hunger programs. Every day, Sodexo will *Show Case* a particular item that will use these featured products from a participating manufacturer. Using more of these products will increase the amount of money donated to hunger relief in North America.

This year's annual boiler shutdown for maintenance and inspection is scheduled for May 16-26. The campus will be without steam for building heat and hot water throughout the shutdown period. It is anticipated that the boilers will be back on-line by the afternoon of May 26. If you have any questions regarding the shutdown, or if you have schedule conflicts to address, please notify the Physical Plant Office as soon as possible as 785.4200.

The Center for Teaching and Learning will sponsor a "Publish, Don't Perish Workshop" from 1:30-4 p.m., May 19, in PML 205.

Faculty and staff are invited to try this non-nonsense method of academic writing. For more information, contact Linda Davenport at 785.4391 or ctl@truman.edu.

The Center for Teaching and Learning will sponsor a Sabbatical Proposal Workshop from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., May 23, in PML 205. Faculty and staff members are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to jumpstart their proposal writing before the Sept. 8 deadline when all the beginning of the semester activity will be distracting. For more information, contact Linda Davenport at 785.4391 or ctl@truman.edu.

The exhibit "Normal to Truman: A 10th Anniversary Celebration of Our Name Change" is currently on display in the Pickler Memorial Library gallery. The exhibit will be on display until July 1. It covers all the name changes in Truman's history and a few of the events of note that occurred under each name, including the transition from a private to a state school, the mission change, the Mitau Award, the "firsts" (first *Index*, first yearbook), and more. For more information, contact Elaine M. Doak at 785.7368.

Pickler Memorial Library is now accepting donations for a book sale to take place in September. Donations of used books, magazines, art prints and audio and video recordings will be accepted. For details visit the library's Web site at <http://library.truman.edu/booksale.htm> or call 785.4038.

9 TUESDAY

Finals continue
7:30 p.m.-True Men 2006 Spring Concert, Baldwin Auditorium; see Notes

10 WEDNESDAY

Reading Day, no classes
11 a.m.-2 p.m.-Senior Picnic, on the Mall; see Page 1

11 THURSDAY

Finals continue

12 FRIDAY

Finals end
4-5:30 p.m.-General Honors Medal Ceremony, SUB Georgian Room; see Page 3

13 SATURDAY

2 p.m.-Commencement, Stokes Stadium; see Page 1
Interim begins

27 SATURDAY

Interim ends

29 MONDAY

Memorial Day (no classes, offices closed)

30 TUESDAY

First five-week graduate classes begin

5 MONDAY

Eight-week undergraduate summer classes begin

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

2006-2007 Calendar

FALL SEMESTER 2006

Aug. 20 - First-year students move-in day
Aug. 21-25 - Truman Week
Aug. 27 - Upper class students move-in
Aug. 28 - Classes begin
Sept. 4 - Labor Day holiday (no classes)
Oct. 7 - Family Day
Oct. 13 - Midterm break
Oct. 16 - Classes resume
Oct. 16-20 - Homecoming Week
Oct. 21 - Homecoming
Nov. 22-24 - Thanksgiving vacation
Nov. 27 - Classes resume
Dec. 8 - Last day of classes
Dec. 11 - Final exams begin
Dec. 13 - Reading Day
Dec. 15 - Final exams end
Dec. 16 - Commencement
Dec. 16 - Interim begins

SPRING SEMESTER 2007

Jan. 7 - Residence halls open (10 a.m.)
Jan. 8 - Classes begin
Jan. 15 - University offices closed
Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
March 5-9 - Midterm break
March 12 - Classes resume
April 9 - Spring break
April 10 - Classes resume
April 27 - Last day of classes
April 30 - Final exams begin
May 2 - Reading Day
May 4 - Final exams end
May 5 - Commencement

Attention Students

Spring grades will be available for students after 5 p.m. on May 22 on TruView.

Degrees for May graduates will be posted by 5 p.m. on May 24, and diplomas will be mailed on the week of May 29.

CELEBRATING



THE TRUMAN VISION

Twenty years ago on January 1, 1986, the mission of Truman State University, then Northeast Missouri State University, was changed dramatically when House Bill 196 became effective. This legislation had been approved by the General Assembly the previous legislative session and was signed by then Governor John Ashcroft on June 20, 1985, on the Truman campus. House Bill 196 changed the University mission from that of a regional, comprehensive university to Missouri's only public liberal arts and sciences university. At that time the idea of an affordable, public liberal arts and sciences university was very innovative, and there were almost no models in any state across the nation. Even today, the number of recognized public liberal arts and sciences universities is small, numbering barely more than 20 across the nation.

The mission change was the result of a broad-based examination of Missouri's system of public higher education by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE). At that time the system was emerging from a period of expansive, inflationary growth in the 1970s followed by several very lean funding years as a result of a national recession in the early 1980s. Furthermore, Missouri's economic recovery was projected to lag the national recovery significantly while full-time, traditional age student enrollment was expected to plummet. It was the judgment of the Coordinating Board and its Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Shaila R. Aery, that too many very similar institutions were serving an overlapping population while the state lacked the resources to fund adequately the plans and infrastructure developed by the public institutions. Their solution was to encourage the institutions to sharpen their programmatic focus, differentiate the clientele served, and encourage financial access to quality programs rather than broad geographic access to undistinguished programs.

The result of a yearlong series of studies by the CBHE staff was a report issued by the Commissioner of Higher Education titled "Strengthening the Investment in Missouri Public Higher Education" that was released in September 1984. The report contained a number of recommendations related to program reviews and changes at institutions, but one of the most significant proposals - and the only one to be enacted into statute - was a mission change for Northeast Missouri State University from a comprehensive regional institution to a public liberal arts and sciences university with a statewide service area. The recommendations also outlined how the University's Board of Governors should be selected. In addition, the new Board was to look at admission requirements, closure of two-year programs, and other program decisions needed to make the institution fit better with its new liberal arts mission.

Northeast Missouri State University was chosen to fulfill this role for several reasons. The student profile was the best among the public insti-

tutions outside the four-campus University of Missouri system. At the same time, the University had not allowed its programmatic offerings to expand as much as those of other institutions - resulting in an institutional focus as a smaller, more selective university. Most importantly, perhaps, the University enjoyed a growing recognition among other institutions across the country for its value-added instructional philosophy and sophisticated testing and survey system. Overall, Northeast was the best-positioned institution in the public sector to undertake the role of a selective, public liberal arts university.

To make the goals of the study a reality, Aery drafted initial legislation proposing and detailing the mission change for Northeast Missouri State University. This legislation was then endorsed by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and prefiled by Representative Winnie Weber, Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher Education. Aery and Weber provided extremely strong and intelligent support for the bill. In their lobbying to support the changes, they cited important benefits Northeast offered to students, including its smaller to moderate size and small-town location. Another key figure in the legislative process, Representative Harry Hill, presented other benefits the enactment of the bill would have for education in Missouri. He asserted that with its new mission, Northeast Missouri State University would help keep talented students in Missouri by preparing them for graduate and professional studies and by offering a less distracting, personalized environment in which students could attend a quality school of higher education.

On the Senate side, long-time 18th District State Senator Norman Merrell was a strong supporter of the initiative and shepherded the bill through that Chamber. Once House Bill 196 was signed into being by Governor Ashcroft in June of 1985, Northeast Missouri State University began the task of drafting a five-year planning document to guide the University in implementing the new mission set to take effect as of Jan. 1, 1986.

After receiving its new legislatively mandated mission, the first major changes in the University took place in the review and evaluation of the curriculum and all academic programs and courses. Each element of the University's academic offerings was analyzed as to how well it fit into the goals of the new mission statement. The result of this year-long review was the proposed elimination and/or redesign of all of the University's program offerings. The number of undergraduate programs offered was reduced from 140 to just 49, and the graduate programs were cut to only nine from the previous 38 offered. All of these remaining majors were restructured to better fit within the University's new mission. This evaluation also ushered in the Masters of Arts in Education degree program. In addition, a core general education course requirement that constituted half a student's required course work and defined the unique mission

and emphasis of the University was adopted. Other issues analyzed and addressed by the University in response to its new mission included admission requirements and tuition and fees. Detailed plans were set forth to guide the University in furthering the selective nature of its admission policies and keeping the cost of its quality education affordable for a wide range of students. The plan developed by Northeast, under the leadership of President Charles McClain, was submitted to the Coordinating Board for its review and was approved in early 1987. The plan was unique in Missouri higher education for its reliance on quantitative measures of success of measurable institutional goals.

As the University worked diligently to carry out its new mission, its reputation for excellence and academic achievement continued to grow. The University's unique, innovative approach to assessment brought nationwide attention to the school, and the reputation of its students for educational excellence quickly spread throughout the country.

The implementation of the mission development plan produced by Northeast was evaluated by a national panel of liberal arts experts jointly appointed by Northeast and the staff of the Coordinating Board following an initial five-year implementation period. On Oct. 14, 1993, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education formally approved the report prepared by this panel which recognized that Northeast had achieved its goals set forth in the *Five-Year Planning Document*. "In all critical components - the content and academic rigor of the curriculum, the quality and disciplinary distribution of the faculty, and the characteristics and academic abilities of incoming students - Northeast met or exceeded [its] goals."

After receiving this confirmation from the CBHE, discussion began on-campus regarding the issue of whether the University's current name satisfactorily reflected its new statewide mission. The Board of Governors authorized the establishment of a special commission to investigate the question. The commission determined that it was in the University's best interests to adopt a new name in recognition of the statewide mission and to reduce confusion outside the state with other institutions with similar names. Among the many new names suggested by the University's various constituent groups, the one variant that had the most support were those honoring Missouri's only favorite son to become President of the United States, Harry S Truman. Several months later, after reviewing all the information it had gathered on the name change issue, the Board of Governors voted on Jan. 30, 1995, to move forward with seeking legislative approval for an official name change to Truman State University.

"Based upon a very thoughtful and prolonged discussion of which name would be more appropriate, we finally decided to leave the word "state" in the name," then Board President Thomas R. Shrout, Jr. said. "State carries several connotations with it, such as it says we are affordable, we are egalitarian to a certain degree in terms of the wealth of the people who come here, and it reminds everyone that the state of Missouri is the primary funding source."

"The name Truman State University is highly appropriate because it represents a native Missourian with national prominence which is what our university is about," then Board Vice President Mary Rhodes Russell said. "It is a Missouri university, owned by the people of this state, that has achieved national prominence."

Once the Board of Governors had approved the new name, an effort was launched in 1995, under the leadership of President Jack Magruder, to persuade the General Assembly to authorize a new name for Northeast Missouri State University. The effort was not without controversy, however, owing to previous unsuccessful efforts by other public institutions to use a name change to begin a mission change process as well as a lingering concern on the part of some that the "Northeast" name should be maintained. Nevertheless, there was generally broad support in the General Assembly to recognize the achievements of the University in the attainment of its new mission as well as to honor the memory of one of Missouri's greatest historical figures. Ultimately, the name change legislation passed on one of the last days of the session.

On June 15, 1995, University administrators, Board members, legislators, CBHE representatives, alumni and friends gathered in Governor Mel Carnahan's office in Jefferson City, Mo., for the signing of the legislation officially changing the name of Northeast Missouri State University to Truman State University, effective July 1, 1996. "Ten years ago this month, Northeast's mission was changed to that of Missouri's statewide public liberal arts and sciences university," Carnahan said. "Since that time, the University's success has exceeded all expectations - bringing great credit to the school and to the state of Missouri. On the 10th anniversary of this historic event and the 50th anniversary of the presidency of Harry S Truman, I am honored to sign legislation that will give one of the nation's best public universities a name that complements its statewide mission."

The new name was launched on July 1, 1996, after a year of intensive work by the University staff to ensure that the University's "brand" as a quality institution was not lost in the transition. Governor Carnahan came to the campus to be part of the festivities and the Student Union Building Georgian Room was filled to nearly overflowing with friends and supporters. The day concluded with fireworks and ice cream under Kirksville's south water tower, which proudly bears the name Truman State University.

As we reflect upon the two anniversaries Truman is celebrating, it is clear that the University has come a long way in the past 20 years. Building on a solid foundation, Truman has become one of Missouri's strongest academic institutions, and it has garnered a national reputation for educating outstanding students. As Truman State University prepares for its bright future we do so with great respect for its past.