

SPECIAL EDITION TRUMAN



T O D A Y

Kirkville, Missouri

December 2003

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As someone who is new to Missouri and Truman State University, I have that rare privilege to see our higher education system afresh through a new pair of eyes. Although our state budget remains a major challenge, Missouri is far from unique among the states in this regard. At the same time, the state's higher education system has many strengths which reflect the wise choices Missouri has made over the years in organizing its colleges and universities.

For example, Missouri's efforts to diversify missions, to coordinate institutions by focusing on state priorities while empowering institutional leadership for implementation, and to provide funding to institutions based on mission and performance have created a very strong system that is the envy of many states. This approach has also fostered institutional excellence and has enabled an institution like Truman to flourish.

Missouri has "shown me" an extremely warm welcome since July 1, and I am honored to have a leadership role in higher education here. I look forward to working with the General Assembly and the citizens of Missouri in fulfilling my responsibilities not only to Truman State University, but to all of higher education in Missouri. Our future depends on an educated citizenry, and your continued support is critical to public higher education.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dixon, President

Truman Recognized as Ninth on Kiplinger's 100 Best Public Colleges

The November 2003 issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine listed Truman as ninth on its exclusive survey list of public colleges and universities that combine great academics with reasonable costs. The magazine also ranked Truman as the second best educational value for out-of-state students. Other Midwestern campuses in the top 15 included the University of Illinois (No. 8) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (No. 13).

Kiplinger's Personal Finance based its rankings on several different factors such as academic quality, including admission rates; student-faculty ratios; the percentage of faculty with the highest degrees in their field; how much each school spends on its library facilities; four and six-year graduation rates; and cost and average debt at graduation. In addition to doing its own reporting, the magazine used data provided by more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities.



U.S. News & World Report Ranks Truman No. 1 Again!

For the seventh year in a row, Truman has been recognized as the No. 1 Public University in the Midwest Region-Master's Category by *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges 2004." Truman also was ranked No. 8 overall in the Midwest region among both private and public institutions. Truman is the only public university in Missouri to be included in either ranking. The Midwest region category includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

U.S. News & World Report based its rankings on graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and peer assessments among those institutions whose focus is mainly undergraduate and master's-level programs.



Truman Continues Its Commitment to Quality Improvement and Performance Outcomes

Higher education must continuously evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of students and the public. At Truman, we understand the importance of assessing the education we are providing and making changes that benefit our students. In the 1970s, we started an innovative assessment program that allowed us to measure the success of our students and to pinpoint areas of the University that needed to be improved.

Truman has changed greatly over the past two decades, making the transition from a regional university to Missouri's statewide liberal arts and sciences university. The changes required to make this transition could not have been identified without our assessment program.

We have modified our curriculum, expanded our activities and events, and provided new resources to students based on our assessment results. With the help of our students, we are able to monitor the quality of the learning environment on campus. For example, through our assessment program, seniors take a national test in their majors and submit a portfolio. Students at all academic levels are often asked to participate in surveys or interview sessions to gather student opinions about the University.

The assessment program serves as an indicator of what students have been able to learn in their majors, how their writing skills have developed, and what they can study to further their knowledge. These assessment tools also allow our faculty to assess the quality of our programs and make necessary changes to strengthen areas that students may not be grasping well. Also, we are able to compare our programs to those at other schools to ensure that we are providing a quality education.

At Truman, our goal is to make our students' time here as productive and enjoyable as possible. We are constantly focused on the growth and development of our students, and we utilize our assessment program to continually enhance our University. Through all of this, we remain accountable to the students and the public.

Truman's Institutional Values:

Centered on Students and Student Learning—A clear emphasis on students and their academic development.

Academic Excellence and Intellectual Challenge in a Nurturing, Diverse Environment—A challenging and supportive environment that prepares students for their next step in life.

Affordability—Financial access to an exceptional liberal arts education comparable to leading private sector colleges, but at a public sector price.

Commitment to Assessment—A self-reflective culture which seeks and promotes continuous improvement and accountability.

Benchmarks for Quality Improvement

Fiscal Years	1985/86	2003/04
Number of Programs Offered		
Undergraduate	140	43
Graduate	38	7
Total Enrollment	6,515	5,833
Enrollment in Foreign Language Classes	427	2,214
Geographic Origin of the Student Body		
<i>Missouri Counties Represented</i>	80	106
Number of States Represented	35	42
International Students	195	256
Foreign Countries Represented	39	48
Undergraduates Involved in Research with Faculty	96	1,200
Total Full-time Faculty	265	354
Student/Faculty Ratio	21:1	15:1
Entering ACT Scores/First-time Freshmen	22.2	27.4
High School Rank in Top 40%	79%	97%
Enrollment of Multicultural Students	209	454
Degrees Granted		
Undergraduate	1,092	1,227
Graduate	312	148
Graduation Rate* (6 year cohort)	44%	75%
Graduate School Placement Rate	13%	41.3%
Freshman Bright Flight Scholars	67	331
Number of Students Studying Abroad	--	479

*Includes students who successfully transferred to other Missouri public institutions.

Truman Notables

Ishiyama Named Carnegie Scholar

The Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) selected John Ishiyama, professor of political science, as one of the 2003 class of Carnegie Scholars. The scholars work together to invent and share new models for teaching, learning and research.

"The Carnegie Scholars Program supports the work of distinguished faculty who are contributing to an emerging scholarship of teaching and learning," said Lee Shulman, president of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The Carnegie Scholars Program is open to faculty from all types of institutions and draws applicants from around the world. This year's applicants were selected from the many different academic disciplines that fall under the broad umbrella of liberal learning.

Forensic Union Ends Season 5th in the Nation

Truman's forensics team placed fifth in the nation and second in Division I at the National Forensic Association Tournament this past April. Truman debaters placed ninth at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Tournament, marking the fourth consecutive year the team has ranked in the top 10 nationally. The debaters were ranked second in the nation in overall, season-long rankings.

This marks the fourth consecutive year that Truman has placed four or more teams in the elimination rounds of the national

parliamentary tournament. This is the first year that both the debate and individual speaking events components of Truman's program have both ranked in the top 10 nationally. National rankings encompass all participating colleges and universities—regardless of size. Consequently, Truman's rankings place it ahead of numerous Research I, highly selective, and even Ivy League colleges and universities.

Truman also captured the overall Missouri state forensics championship for the third consecutive year, while also capturing the state title in individual events and debate sweepstakes categories. This is the first year that Truman has swept all three state championship categories.

Smith Selected as Truman Scholar

Erin Smith, a senior political science major, was one of 76 students from 63 U.S. colleges and universities selected as a 2003 Truman Scholar. Recipients were elected by 20 independent selection panels on the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability and likelihood of "making a difference."

Smith took a year off college to serve her state as a motivational speaker and literacy advocate as Miss Iowa 2001.

Each scholarship provides \$3,000 for the senior year and \$27,000 for graduate study for a total of \$30,000.

Haworth Receives Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship

Kevin Haworth, a May 2003 graduate, was awarded a Phi Kappa Phi

Graduate Fellowship for the 2003-04 academic year.

The Fellowship Program awards annually 52 fellowships for post-graduate study at accredited institutions of higher learning. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis for first-year graduate or professional study.

Haworth is pursuing an applied physics degree at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Detours and Index Win National Journalism Awards

The Society of Professional Journalists awarded two student publications with prestigious Mark of Excellence Awards at the national convention Sept.

11-13 in Tampa, Fla.

Detours won a 2002 national third place Best Student Magazine published more than once a year, and the *Index* won a 2002 national third place for Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper published less than twice a week. Both of those awards were based on calendar year 2002.

Truman was the only school of all sizes that had two publications as national finalists.

Athletes Earn No. 8 In All Sports

The Truman athletic department collected an eighth-place finish in the 2002-03 Sears Directors' Cup. The Sears Directors'

Cup is the national ranking for Division II schools based on the performance of their athletic teams. It marks the fifth consecutive top 10 finish for Truman.

Even more impressive are the academic accomplishments of Truman student-athletes. Truman was recently recognized for the second consecutive year by *USA Today* and the NCAA for its top 10 ranking in graduation rates of student-athletes. Truman ranked ninth among all 280 Division II schools with a 78 percent graduation rate. Truman was the only Division II institution in Missouri to be ranked in the top 10. Truman student-athletes had a cumulative GPA of 3.18, with more than 12 percent (46 out of 368) earning a 4.0 for the spring 2003 semester.



Women's Swimming Wins Third Consecutive NCAA Division II National Title

The women's swimming team captured its third consecutive Division II National Championship this past March. First-year head coach **Colleen Murphy** was named NCAA Division II coach of the year by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America, as three women recorded a total of five individual national titles, along with four first-place relay teams. This season all 18 women who participated in the NCAA championships finished among the top eight to earn all-American status and garner team points.