

# SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE EDITION TRUMAN



TODAY

Kirkville, Missouri

February 2003

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Truman State University is proud to be a component of a strong statewide education system. Missouri's public colleges and universities provide a key resource for the state, and our diverse system provides students with quality academic experiences. Numerous partnerships exist among the institutions which demonstrate the value of the coordinated system which has developed in Missouri.

Higher education serves as the engine of economic development in Missouri, helping to fuel economic growth and expansion. A well-educated, highly-skilled workforce helps Missouri communities attract and create new businesses. Missouri's higher education institutions are a major part of the state's economic infrastructure, and their impact cannot be overlooked.

All of Missouri's public higher education institutions deserve increased state support. However, we recognize the current funding situation in Missouri and ask that when funding levels are restored, the value and return on investment provided by higher education be appropriately recognized by the General Assembly. Your continued support is critical to the future of this great state.

Sincerely,

Jack Magruder  
President, Truman State University

## Truman State University: Missouri's Success Story

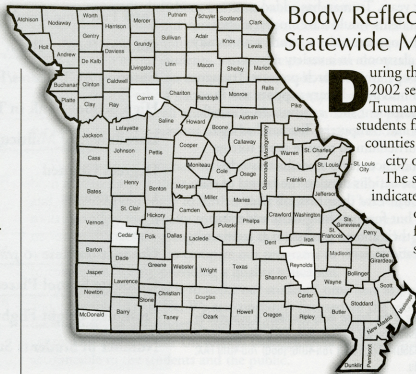
**T**ruman is first and foremost dedicated to the education of its students. It seeks to provide access to an educational experience comparable to the nation's best private liberal arts and sciences institutions at a *public school price*. A Truman education provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to be competitive both nationally and internationally.

### 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** An exceptional education for students who might not otherwise have financial access to such a program.
- ❖ **Commitment to Assessment** A self-reflective culture which seeks and promotes continuous improvement and accountability.

## Truman's Student Body Reflects Its Statewide Mission

**D**uring the Fall 2002 semester, Truman had students from 109 counties and the city of St. Louis. The shaded area indicates counties of residence for Truman students.



## Truman State University: Affordable Quality

**T**ruman has developed a strong tradition of prudent, fiscally conservative management. The University and its Board of Governors believe it is equally important to define efficiency and effectiveness in terms of student learning and success rather than just accounting measures.

As Missouri's only highly selective public liberal arts and sciences university, Truman's primary focus is undergraduate education. Truman has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as the #1 public university in the Midwest region among universities that specialize in undergraduate and master's level degrees. This year Truman also ranked #8 in the Midwest region, which includes 12 states, among both public and private institutions in this same category. Truman's ranking among these same Midwestern institutions on "Resource Availability" was only 38th. These statistics clearly indicate that Truman's students and the state of Missouri are getting an excellent value for their investment in Truman.

Truman has thrived by keeping its mission tightly focused and investing its resources where they count the most – in the teaching/learning process. In 1985, the Missouri Legislature statutorily changed Truman's mission to a statewide liberal arts and sciences university. Because of this change, we reduced our programs by approximately 100 because we knew that we would not have the resources to support 140 programs at a nationally competitive level.

Over the years, Truman has added more faculty so students would have smaller classes and increased opportunities to work with faculty outside the classroom in a variety of ways, including cooperative research projects. Truman has invested heavily in library support and in academic equipment such as advanced scientific instruments and computers. Truman has also altered its curriculum to require more foreign languages and encourages students to study abroad. These actions develop the talents of our students, not just for their first job after graduation, but for their long-term leadership potential in their chosen profession as a citizen in a democratic society.

This special issue of the *Truman Today* newsletter is published by Truman State University, 102 McClain Hall, 100 E. Normal, Kirksville, MO 63501-4221; (660) 785-4016; (660) 785-4019 FAX; [www.truman.edu](http://www.truman.edu).



# Benchmarks of Successful Change

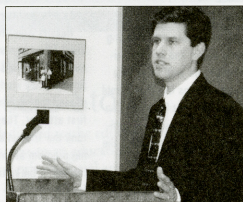
<b>Fiscal Years</b>	<b>1985/86</b>	<b>2002/03</b>
<b>Number of Programs Offered</b>		
Undergraduate	140	43
Graduate	38	8
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>5,971</b>
<b>Enrollment in Foreign Language Classes</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>2,121</b>
<b>Geographic Origin of the Student Body</b>		
Missouri Enrollment, # of Counties	80	109
Out-of-State Enrollment, # of States	35	38
International Enrollment	195	250
# of Countries	39	49
<b>Undergraduates Involved in Research with Faculty</b>	96	app. 1,200
<b>Total Full-time Faculty</b>	265	366
<b>Student/Faculty Ratio</b>	21:1	15:1
<b>Entering ACT Scores/First-time Freshmen</b>	22.2	27.4
<b>High School Rank in Top 40%</b>	79%	96%
<b>Enrollment of Multicultural Students</b>	209	418
<b>Degrees Granted</b>		
Undergraduate	1,092	1,216
Graduate	312	102
<b>Graduation Rate (6 year cohort)</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Graduate School Placement Rate</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>40.5%</b>
<b>Freshman Bright Flight Scholars</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>333</b>
<b>Number of Students Studying Abroad</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>493</b>



## Vazzana Named Missouri Professor of the Year

**T**ony Vazzana, assistant professor of mathematics, has been named the 2002 Missouri Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. This national recognition program, established in 1981, rewards outstanding professors for their dedication to teaching, commitment to students and innovative instructional methods. Vazzana received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2000 and Truman students selected him as the Educator of the Year that same year.

This year there are winners in 45 states and the District of Columbia and four national winners. Vazzana was selected from 422 faculty members nominated by colleges and universities throughout the country.



## Truman is named the #1 Public University in the Midwest again!

**F**or the sixth consecutive year, Truman State University has been recognized in *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" 2003 guide as the #1 public university in the Midwest region among universities that specialize in undergraduate and master's level degrees. Truman also ranked #8 in the Midwest region among both public and private institutions. Truman is the only public university in Missouri to be included in either ranking. Also, in the category "Best Values: Great Schools at Great Prices," Truman is the only public university in the Midwest to be on the top 15 listing.

The latest edition of *The Princeton Review's* "The Best 345 Colleges" named Truman as one of the best undergraduate institutions in the nation. Truman was described by the authors as being what is arguably "the premier public liberal arts school in the Midwest."

The 2003 edition of Kaplan's *Unofficial, Unbiased, Insider's Guide to the 320 Most Interesting Colleges* named Truman as one of the best values in the nation. The "Best Value" category included 41 schools from across the nation. Truman was named a hidden treasure by guidance counselors in the Midwest. "Graduates have a leg up because of the school's reputation," said one guidance counselor.

*Seventeen* magazine recently named Truman as one of its "100 Coolest Colleges." Also, Truman was included among five schools in the category, "Where Have They Been All Our Lives?" *Seventeen* took many factors into account for their rankings, including academic quality, student life, financial aid, and campus safety.

The October 2002 issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine named Truman as the #23 best public college value in the nation. Truman is the only Missouri school to be in the top 25 and was also named as one of the top ten public colleges and universities for out-of-state students to attend.

## Truman Continues to Focus on Accountability and Performance

**H**igher 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 Notables

## Life Sciences Collaboration

Truman State University is actively collaborating with public and private universities as well as private sector groups like the Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center and the Missouri Botanical Gardens in support of the Missouri's Life Sciences Initiative. Truman has developed joint research proposals with the University of Missouri-Columbia and the Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine as well as the Danforth Center, and our undergraduate students have conducted research at several of these facilities in the summer. Our faculty are also involved in various life sciences projects, and the academic development of students who will become future leaders in the field is core component of Truman's mission.

## Truman Students Excel on CPA Examination

In a report issued by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, Truman's Master of Accountancy students ranked eleventh in the nation for passing all four parts of the May 2001 Certified Public Accountant exam. Over 51% of Truman students passed all four parts on the first attempt, compared to the national average of 27.4%. Truman students also had the highest pass rate in the nation on the Financial Accounting and Reporting

section. No other university in the nation had a 100% pass rate in this category.

Results from the May 2002 CPA exam show 15 out of 22 Truman Master of Accountancy students passed the exam on their first attempt. These results rank the Truman's accounting program as one of the top ten in the nation.

## Debaters Continue National Successes

This past April, Truman's forensics team placed fifth in the National Forensic Association Tournament in President's Division I for the second consecutive year. In March, ten Truman debaters continued a four-year streak of competitive success at the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Tournament. These debaters placed sixth overall in the nation in tournament sweepstakes.

For the second consecutive year, Truman finished in the top 10 nationally out of 248 ranked debate programs in season sweepstakes, a measure of the performance of the nation's top teams for the entire season.

Truman also captured the overall Missouri state forensics championship for the second consecutive year. Truman won the state debate sweepstakes championship and placed second in the state individual events sweepstakes.

## Truman Athletics Earns #4 National Ranking In All Sports!

The Truman athletic department collected a fourth-place finish, the University's best ever, in the 2001-02 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 fourth consecutive top-10 finish for Truman.

Even more impressive is the fact that Truman's student athletes had a cumulative GPA of 3.20, with 55 of the 424 student athletes earning a 4.0 for the spring semester. Truman continues to develop a model of how individuals can be true student-athletes.

## Women's Swimming Wins Second Consecutive NCAA Division II National Title

The women's swimming team captured its second consecutive Division II National Championship, with freshman Diane Betsworth being named Division II Swimmer of the Year. Coach Seth Huston was named the Division II Women's Swimming Coach of the Year for the third straight season. The team broke 7 NCAA Division II records at the national competition. The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation honored senior Bridget Riley by naming her the Kansas City Collegiate Female Athlete of the Year.



## Volleyball Team Finishes #2 in Nation

For the first time in Truman history, the volleyball team played in the NCAA Division II Championship game. This was the second consecutive year the Truman volleyball team has made it to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight Women's Volleyball Championship. The team finished with a 28-9 overall record.

Head Coach Qi Wang was selected as the 2002 AVCA/Tachikara Division II National Coach of the Year. Coach Wang

was also named the South Central Region Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year. In his two years at Truman, Coach Wang has guided the Bulldogs to a record of 65-11 and two consecutive appearances in the Elite Eight Women's Volleyball Championship.

## More Athletic Highlights

The softball team won the MIAA conference tournament and earned a trip to the national tournament. The team finished with a 31-17 overall record, with two players being named to the All-Region team. Nine Truman track and field athletes earned All-American honors in the Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The wrestling team earned the No. 1 ranking on the National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Academic Teams list. The men's cross country team placed fourteenth at the Division II National Championships, after finishing second in the MIAA meet by one point.