

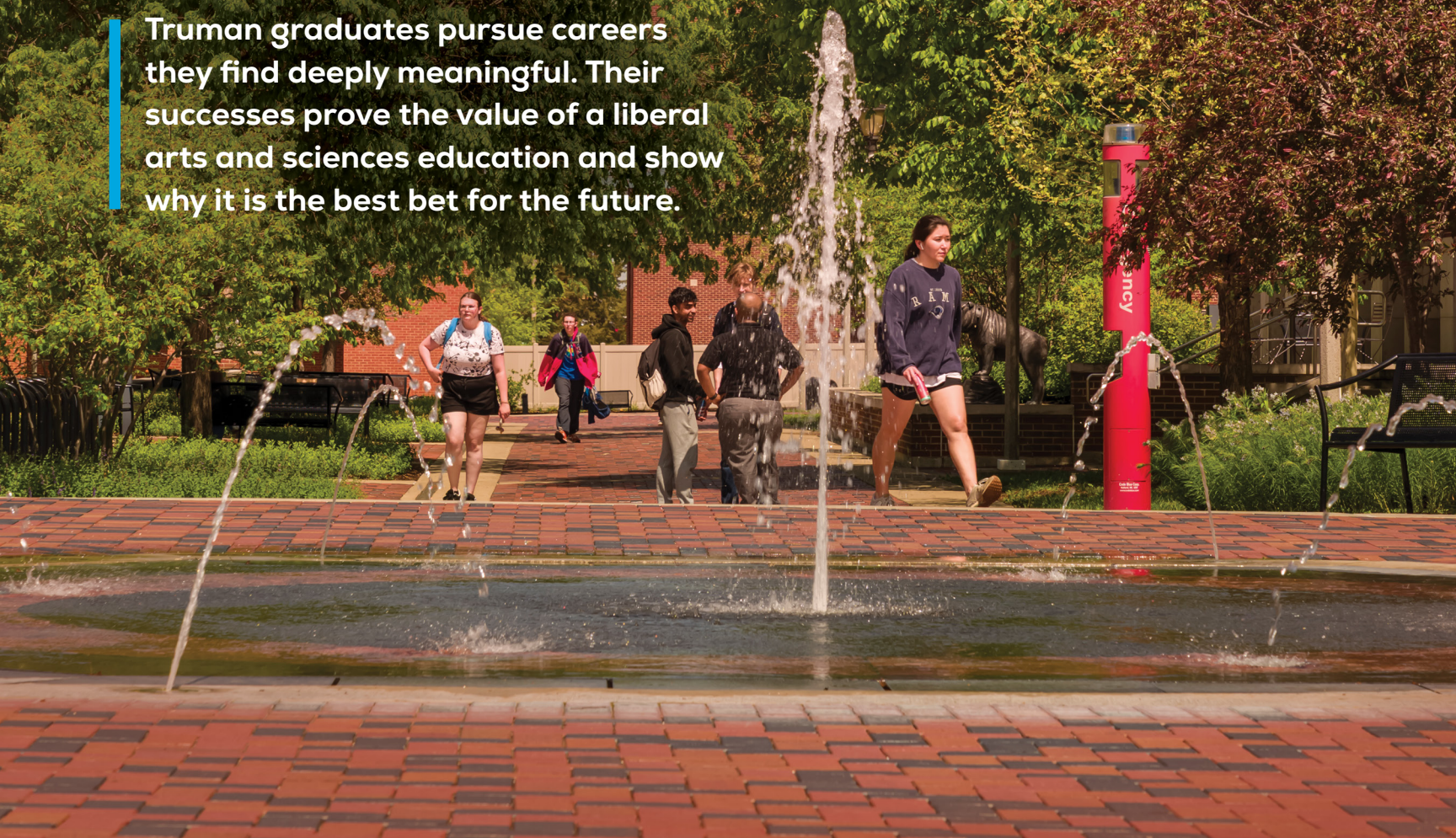
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TRUMAN REVIEW

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS & FRIENDS OF
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Beyond Compare

Truman graduates pursue careers they find deeply meaningful. Their successes prove the value of a liberal arts and sciences education and show why it is the best bet for the future.





GREETINGS, FELLOW BULLDOGS!

I hope this issue of the Truman Review finds you enjoying a summer filled with family, friends and memorable experiences. In Kirksville, after sending off spectacular graduates prepared to make a real difference in the world, we have settled into a summer full of academies, athletic and band camps, the Special Olympics summer games and, very importantly, orientation to welcome our new Bulldogs and their families to our amazing community. All of this comes on the heels of another academic year full of impressive accomplishments for which Truman is known, resulting in the impactful educational experiences that truly set our graduates apart. We are excited to share some highlights in this issue.

One thing that did not excite us this year was the proposed higher education funding formula offered by the Missouri House budget chair and vice chair. A radical departure from previous norms, the formula focused solely on how many students enter a college or university, without regard for whether students emerge from that institution with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful and productive members of society. It was met with swift bipartisan opposition and ultimately abandoned. Ironically, the three institutions that would have suffered the largest decreases in state funding – Truman, Lincoln and Harris Stowe – were the three that had the greatest increase in student headcount in Fall 2025.

I am deeply grateful for the support Truman received during the budget formula discussion and for the ways people shared with the legislature what an impressive and invaluable institution we are and how we have excelled as the state's designated liberal arts and sciences institution for 40 years. Sen. Cindy O'Laughlin, a staunch and tireless advocate for the University, and Sen. Maggie Nurrenbern ('05), who has championed Truman and appropriate state funding, provided vital support. If you would like more details on the budget process, please see the updates I have posted throughout the legislative session at truman.edu/about/our-people/presidents-office.

While the funding model is resolved for now, the question of how higher education should be funded in the future remains. Truman looks forward to continuing our work with public higher education leaders, the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, and members of the General Assembly to develop a funding model that works for all Missouri institutions and incorporates key performance measures, such as retention and graduation rates. Truman has a proven legacy of transforming students' lives, achieving exceptional outcomes and cultivating generations of remarkable alumni. We are exactly the type of institution the citizens of Missouri expect to support with their tax dollars.

Truman punches far above our weight class. Top businesses and industries in the state actively recruit our graduates. Truman serves as a pipeline to the top graduate programs in our state, and among its graduates are the state's top legal minds, health care experts, nonprofit leaders, educators and business executives. You cannot find another institution that provides the quality of education for the value.

It is the impressive people associated with Truman, past and present, who ensure our enduring excellence. Thank you for being an important part of making Truman the amazing institution it was, it is and will continue to be!

With great Truman pride,



Sue

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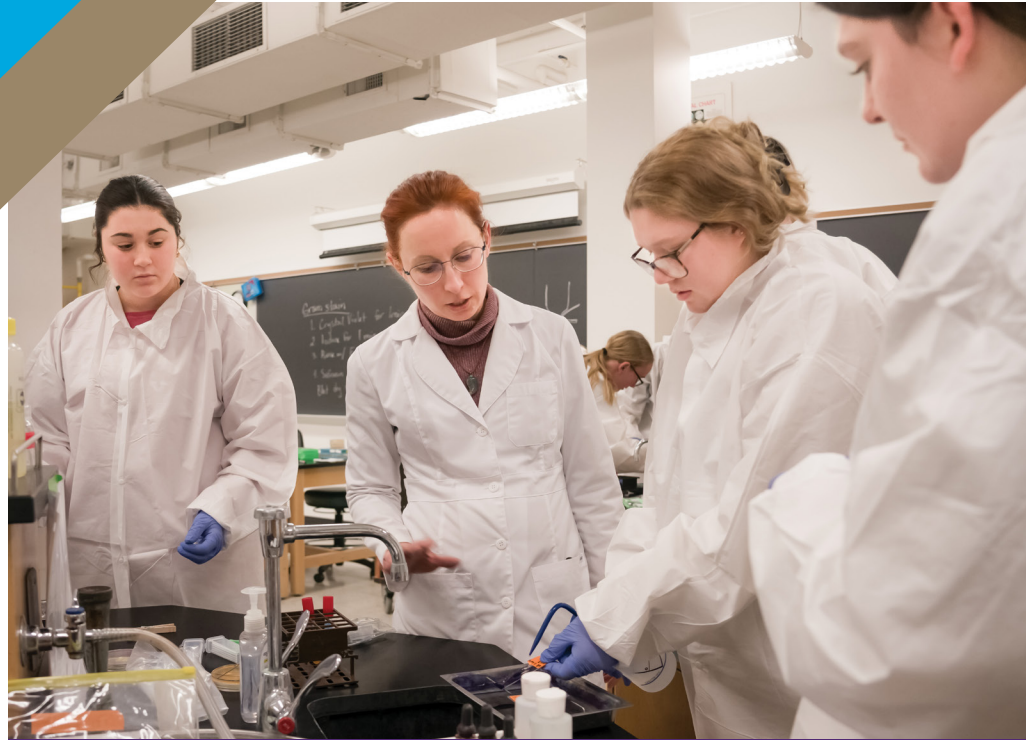
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Walston Named EVPAA and Provost

TIM WALSTON ASSUMED THE DUTIES of Truman's Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost in May, officially stepping into the role after previously serving in the position on an interim basis.

A member of the Truman faculty since 2006, Walston brings almost two decades of experience in teaching, research and administration within the University. Before serving as interim provost, he was dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, where he led the launch of new academic programs and strengthened efforts in faculty development.

"It is an honor to be selected to serve as the next Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and to lead our outstanding faculty as they provide a truly amazing education to our students," Walston said. "I feel strongly about this institution and its mission as the state of Missouri's premier public liberal arts and sciences institution. I look forward to working with our campus to continue excelling at meeting that mission."

Walston's experience goes beyond the classroom, having authored and presented multiple scientific publications, professional presentations and grants. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Taylor University, as well as a master's degree in cellular and molecular biology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and a doctorate in genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Tim Walston

NEMO Scholarship Expands to Support More Area Students

BEGINNING NEXT FALL, even more students will have access to the Northeast Missouri Scholarship at Truman.

The NEMO Scholarship has been expanded to include Clark, Lewis, Shelby and Marion counties, bringing the total number of eligible counties to 12. This expansion will be effective for fall 2026 incoming students.

Offered for the first time in the 2025-26 academic year, the scholarship provides \$2,000 for students living on campus. Students from the area not living on campus can still receive \$1,000.

"Including more counties for the NEMO Scholarship is a natural next step as we continue to celebrate the region we call home," said Allison Schweizer, director of admission. "Truman is committed to empowering students from northeast Missouri and investing in their future success."

The full list of counties eligible for this scholarship includes Adair, Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland, Knox, Macon, Linn, Sullivan, Clark, Lewis, Shelby and Marion. All new admitted Truman students from these 12 northeast Missouri counties are automatically eligible for the scholarship, which is renewable each year the student attends. No additional application is required. Transfer students who meet certain criteria and hail from the applicable counties may also be eligible to receive the award.

More information about the Northeast Missouri Scholarship can be found at truman.edu/nemos.



Incoming students who reside in the counties above are eligible for the Northeast Missouri Scholarship.



Costa Stays Engaged with Public Offerings of Popular Classes

This fall, Sal Costa will teach a publicly available course on the mafia.

TO THE CASUAL OBSERVER, it might not look like Sal Costa is retired. It's common to bump into him on campus, usually in the Student Union Building chatting with former colleagues or current students. For several weeks most semesters he can be found in other familiar territory – the classroom.

Since 2024, Costa has developed abbreviated public versions of some of his most popular courses. It started with his most notable course, "Serial Killers and Psychopaths," a class he taught for years in psychology and later as a JINS offering. The idea for the public offerings came after Costa presented on the topic at a few public forums and received overwhelming demand for more.

"After doing some open forums we had several people ask if they could take a course like that," he said. "That was instrumental in starting these courses."

The first public version of the class took place once a week in the evenings and was only offered as an in-person option. Due to popular demand, Costa taught the class the next year with an online option to allow alumni and friends the ability to partake. Those taking the class online could experience the content in real time or asynchronously, watching the lectures at their convenience. The online version of these courses can be taken from anywhere in the United States.

For some, these classes are an opportunity to sample a Truman course, while others take it because of their interest in the subject matter. Many participants simply want to take a stroll down memory lane.

"I believe I do get a lot of students taking it for nostalgic reasons," Costa said. "Some others tell me they take it because they weren't able to get into the class when they were students. It's very exciting to have

former students in there."

Costa later developed an abbreviated public version of "The Psychology of Abnormal Behavior," allowing participants to explore the complexities of the human mind and the science behind psychological disorders.

This fall, Costa will unveil a new publicly available course, "The History of the Mafia." Technically, this is not an adapted version of one of Costa's previous classes. He always intended to teach the course before his retirement, but the popularity of the serial killers class kept him from working it into his rotation. He is picking it back up now because, as an Italian American, the subject matter is personally meaningful.

"Being of Sicilian heritage, I've just been very fascinated by Italian history in general," he said. "Participants will be able to gain a wealth of knowledge, including about Sicilian and Italian customs. These are things they might have a little familiarity with, but they can gain more."

As with the previous offerings, "The History of the Mafia" will be available both in-person and online. The course is open to any non-degree seeking student for a cost of \$65. Registration can be completed online at institute.truman.edu soon. Anyone who takes the class – which is offered as a pass/fail option – will receive one hour of college credit. The class will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays beginning Aug. 18 and run through Oct. 6. Online lectures will be posted and available for viewing shortly after each session.

Anyone interested in taking Costa's abbreviated version of the "Serial Killers" course should also keep an eye on the registration page. He plans to offer the public version of that class online and in-person again for Spring 2027.

Truman Extends No. 1 Streak to 29 Years, Receives Full Accreditation for the Next Decade

IT HAS BECOME A RITE OF FALL as commonplace as the leaves changing colors. Near the beginning of the most recent academic year, Truman was again ranked as the No. 1 public university in the Midwest region by U.S. News & World Report, extending its streak at the top to 29 years in a row.

In addition to the No. 1 public ranking, the University came in tied at No. 7 overall for the Midwest region. Truman was the only public institution in the state to be listed in the top 50.

"Year after year, Truman is recognized for the enormous impact and value of our education," said University President Sue Thomas. "Designed to meet the demands of today's world, a Truman education provides our students with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful now and in the future. Truman provides a great return on our students' investment."

Among the supplemental rankings that accompany the annual report, Truman again scored notable recognitions, coming in at No. 13 on the list of Best Value Schools in the Midwest region. Truman was the only Missouri school to make the top 15 on this list, and the only public college or university from the Show-Me State to be included in the top 35 spots. The Best Value rankings are determined by examining key indicators such as academic quality, the percentage of full-time students receiving need-based scholarships or grants, and the average discount from a school's sticker price for full-time undergraduates receiving the average need-based grant.

Faculty members' commitment to students helped the University earn a top five spot on another list. A fixture on the Undergraduate Teaching Programs list, Truman came in tied at No. 4 this year in the

Midwest region. This subcategory, compiled from peer assessment, highlights schools that emphasize providing high-quality instruction to undergraduates. Schools are ranked in descending order based on the number of nominations they received. Of the 12 institutions to make this list, Truman was the highest rated of the three public schools to be included.

Truman also came in tied for No. 4 on the list of Most Innovative Schools in the Midwest region. Only eight institutions made this exclusive list, and Truman was the sole public school to earn this distinction. U.S. News & World Report asked top college officials to identify institutions in their Best Colleges ranking category that are making the most innovative improvements in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology or facilities.

The previous school year started off with more good news, as the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) affirmed Truman's accreditation through 2034-35.

The report from the HLC visiting team was positive, noting all criteria for reaffirmation had been met and no interim monitoring was recommended.

As part of HLC's Open Pathway, Truman will complete a mid-point Assurance Review in 2029 and will complete a Quality Initiative between approximately 2032 and 2034.

Truman has been fully accredited since 1914 by the Higher Learning Commission.

#1

Truman is the #1 public university in the Midwest for 29 years running.

U.S. News & World Report (2026)

Online Gifted Ed Program Provides Opportunities for Teachers and Students

Truman combines its normal school roots and modern technology to equip educators with strategies for talented learners.

GIFTED STUDENTS OFTEN NEED SUPPORT beyond what is typically targeted in day-to-day instruction. For educators seeking additional resources to help these students reach their full potential, Truman offers a completely online Master of Arts in gifted education.

Designed with working teachers in mind, the program is flexible and accessible. Coursework can be completed on an independent schedule, allowing teachers to fast-track their studies and earn their degree quickly or take one course at a time and directly apply new skills and strategies in their classroom for instant impact.

"Truman's fully online gifted education offerings are designed to combine the academic rigor and the professional flexibility that today's teachers require. Whether pursuing a full Master of Arts or focused certification, students move through the program at their own pace while learning from regional and national leaders who are actively shaping gifted policy and advocacy," said Jocelyn Stevens, associate professor of music education and chair of education.

"By exploring how creativity, culture and neurodiversity intersect, we provide a world-class education at a regional price point, equipping educators with the clinical insight and evidence-based strategies needed to lead high-impact programming in their own districts."

The program is comprised of 30 total credit hours, which includes a three-credit-hour internship. Courses cover the identification of gifted students, advanced curriculum development, ways to socially and emotionally support gifted students, and the research and development of gifted education programs.

Admission to the Master of Arts in gifted education is made on a rolling basis, meaning teachers can apply in the fall, spring or summer – whatever time is right for them. Some prior graduate coursework may be eligible for transfer credit.

More information about the Master of Arts in gifted education program can be found online at gifted.truman.edu, and by calling (660) 785-4386 or emailing gifted@truman.edu.

Attention Educators: Share Your Truman Spirit!

As a tribute to the University's long history of teacher education, the **TruSpirit Program** offers alumni educators the opportunity to showcase their Truman spirit at their school! The dedicated work of teachers, counselors and administrators shapes the coming generations, and it is an honor for Truman to be associated with so many talented mentors. TruSpirit packets consist of Truman swag and information about the University to share with students in your classroom or office. If you are an educator and have not signed up yet for the TruSpirit program, visit advancement.truman.edu/register/truspirit.

TRUMAN



Expanding Community, Creating Opportunity

Suhani Patel is making the most of her Truman experience by developing connections.

LITTLE THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE. When Suhani Patel visited Truman, it was in the dead of winter, before students were back on campus. Sidewalks had yet to be cleared after a storm, and a major construction project was underway in the middle of campus, so it wasn't exactly picturesque. Nevertheless, she gave the school a fair shake, putting stock in the University's academic reputation and trust in her tour guide.

"The student ambassador from my tour did a fantastic job in checking all the boxes of my ideal college, from academics to social," Patel said. "As I continued to research Truman, I found it to be the best school with an ideal class size, academic and research opportunities, along with organizations that I could carry on hobbies like Indian classical dancing."

Still, there were reservations, most notably that Kirksville does not have a mandir, the traditional place of worship in Hindu culture. During Diwali, the

Hindu Festival of Lights, Patel would give tours of the mandir her family attends in Shawnee, Kansas, a short drive from her home in Lee's Summit, Missouri. The apprehension of not having built-in community support gave way with one final touch during her recruitment process – a handwritten postcard from a chemistry faculty member.

"It is a very rare thing in college to find professors and staff members who go above and beyond to make students feel like family, and Truman embodies that very well," she said.

Fast forward two years and "ingrained" would be the best word to describe Patel's connection to the Truman community. With medical career aspirations, she chose biochemistry and molecular biology for her major and recently upgraded her mathematics minor to a second major after participating in computational chemistry research through A.T. Still University.

"It wasn't until March of 2025, when I started preparing for my Student Research Conference talk, that I realized how beautifully my two academic worlds were clashing together," she said. "This realization made me want to continue taking math classes, both for my love towards the subject and in learning the backbone theory of my research."

“

As a college student, my favorite day of the year is the Student Research Conference. I am given the opportunity to fully be myself while getting to talk about my research."

— **Suhani Patel**

Having recently completed her sophomore year, Patel has twice participated in Truman's annual Student Research Conference. While some students may look forward to homecoming, breaks or even Reading Day (Eve), the SRC is what she circles on her calendar.

"As a college student, my favorite day of the year is the Student Research Conference," she said. "I am given the opportunity to fully be myself while getting to talk about my research."

Outside of the classroom, Patel is actively involved in more than half a dozen extracurricular activities. In addition to being the president of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, she has leadership positions in the Pre-Student Osteopathic Medical Association and Alpha Chi Sigma. Through her affiliation with the South Asian Student Union, Patel has been able to continue her love of Indian classical dance by co-hosting and choreographing two annual events. She also taught an Indian folk-dance class at the Student Recreation Center.

"Truman is a supportive community of various academic and social interests, where everyone is curious and willing to dabble in other fields to learn more," she said. "Truman truly lives up to its liberal arts education. Many of my STEM friends and I have integrated a part of ourselves into classes outside of STEM. I had the opportunity to take Piano Lower Division, where I was fortunate to learn key piano skills and perform in Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Essentially, students can enroll in classes outside of their major and develop crucial skills they

wouldn't have gotten to otherwise."

Whether it is piano recitals, making friends during Truman Week or taking in the sunrise during a morning hike at Thousand Hills State Park, Patel has found a home in Kirksville.

"Outside of academics, the staff from food services to administration are all involved with the student body. Most, if not all, of MO Hall's dining staff have gone out of their way to get to know me and many other students. As soon as I enter their dining hall a staff member, typically Tabby, is ready with my quesadilla with a side of sour cream," she said. "The community here at Truman is extremely supportive, and I truly was not expecting all the warmth."

In the future, Patel will likely continue to be part of a university community. She intends to obtain an MD-PhD in oncology and biophysics with a focus on using computational methods. Ideally, she would like to teach and conduct research at a medical school while still seeing patients in the clinic.

For now, Patel still has two years left at Truman, and she plans to make the most of them. One way she is giving back to her newfound community is through her role as a student ambassador. She now helps prospective students in the same way she was aided on her first visit to campus.

"Since coming to Truman, I have developed an immense amount of pride and love for our school," she said. "Being a student ambassador is absolutely one of my favorite things to do. There is never a dull moment in giving tours to families. They are so kind, amiable and full of stories, especially our beloved alumni who bring their kids and grandkids."



Patel performs an Indian folk dance at the International Prom in Pershing Arena.

Complimentary Angles

Countless students have benefited from mathematics faculty members Dana and Tony Vazzana as they approach nearly 30 years together at Truman.

IT'S NOT REALLY ABOUT THE MATH. Ask a mathematician what excites them about their field and the answer might sound like a spiritual testimony with terms like "truth" and "certainty" rather than discussion of quadratic equations or linear regression.

"There is something satisfying about the existence of an objectively right answer that can't be debated," said Dana Vazzana, professor of mathematics.

It is a sentiment shared by her colleague and husband.

"What is particularly satisfying to me is the certainty of mathematical truths," said Tony Vazzana, professor of mathematics. "I have always been engaged by solving puzzles of various kinds, and mathematics provides an unlimited source of these."

In the simplest terms, mathematicians are problem solvers. They evaluate all the relevant variables, position them accordingly and work the equation to find the solution. Fittingly, when Dana and Tony met as grad students at the University of Michigan they each served as a problem solver for the other.

"I was working on filing all of the initial paperwork, and the administrative assistant was directing me to various offices all over campus to get my ID, office keys and paycheck paperwork," Dana said. "I looked confused when she kept describing different buildings, and Tony stepped up and offered me a map."



The most rewarding times are when I have a student who struggles initially but eventually turns things around. It's really thrilling to see a student take action and have the kind of success they hoped for initially.

- TONY VAZZANA

thrilling to see a student take action and have the kind of success they hoped for initially. Even better than the achievement in the moment is knowing that when the student next encounters a setback, they will have this experience of rising to meet a challenge and persevering."

While she continues to teach classes, Dana has also assumed the role of director for Truman's Academic Professional Development Center. The APDC provides resources for faculty members, including classroom support tools, mentoring guidelines and regular lunches on specific topics.

"I moved into faculty development because I saw students struggling and wanted to devote more time and energy to learning how to help them and to help my colleagues improve teaching across campus," she said. "It has been great to see the APDC grow over the years. We had almost 60 people at the last lunch event this year, and it is great to see so many faculty get involved in events that promote good teaching."

Since their arrival in 1998, the Vazzanas have taught the spectrum of mathematics classes at Truman. Violette Hall has served as their home away from home throughout their careers, but an office reshuffle placed them on opposite sides of the building years ago.

"We joked that we were now in a long-distance relationship," Dana said. "It's nice to be able to talk over teaching issues with him. Sometimes I do have to declare 'no more work talk!' if I'm trying to relax and he's contemplating curriculum revisions out loud or something."

During those work-free times, the Vazzanas have any number of activities to keep them occupied. They both enjoy being outdoors when the weather is nice. Tony can often be found watching a sporting event, depending on what's in season, while Dana likes to sew or try her hand at the New York Times crossword puzzle. Given enough time, dinner might be an overly complicated new recipe. With both of their children out of the house and pursuing their own careers, the Vazzanas take pleasure in the slower pace of life.

"The evening might be capped off sitting on our back deck reflecting on days gone by and imagining future adventures to come," Tony said.

Or, possibly thinking of the next problem to solve.

That initial act of chivalry earned reciprocity.

"I didn't have a car, and Dana took pity on me," he said. "We regularly did our grocery shopping together. I tried to express my gratitude for this once by making her dinner, but I think that only deepened her sense of pity."

The next major variable in the equation of their story came after earning their Ph.D.s and entering the job market at the same time. At one point, they each had offers in hand, but in different parts of the country. When Truman's Math Department expressed interest late in the hiring process, the Vazzanas did not exactly see the situation in the same light.

"I wrote back and said that we were not interested," Tony said. "Dana, on the other hand, gave a more nuanced, 'No, not unless you can interview us this week and give us a decision right away,' and that is exactly what happened."

Truman turned out to be the perfect fit. Dana and Tony earned their undergraduate degrees at the University of Illinois and the University of Notre Dame, respectively. They were looking for a small to mid-sized liberal arts school for their academic careers. It helped that Truman is close to home for Dana, an Iowa native.

"It was always exactly what we wanted: a school that focused on teaching, with small classes, great students and a strong sense of community," she said.

Working with students has always been a passion for both Dana and Tony. Beyond teaching a subject matter they enjoy, fulfillment comes from helping students reach their potential, especially in the face of adversity.

"The most rewarding times are when I have a student who struggles initially but eventually turns things around. Sometimes I'll meet with a student early in a semester after a test that hasn't gone well, for whatever reason. We talk about strategies that might lead to better results," Tony said. "It's really

Beyond Compare

Truman graduates pursue careers they find deeply meaningful. Their successes prove the value of a liberal arts and sciences education and show why it is the best bet for the future.

CENTURIES FROM NOW, historians may one day categorize this period as the era of data. From business analytics to sports statistics to what social media algorithms know will keep eyeballs on screens while fingers continually scroll for hours, almost everything can be measured. Still, some things remain difficult to quantify. How can a person's passion for a cause be gauged, or the intangible qualities they contribute to society be measured?

Education can be particularly difficult to assess. How does one measure the effects of an education when it is put into practice with purpose? The teacher who shapes thousands of young minds during a decades-long career. The doctor who gives patients more moments with loved ones following their life-saving efforts. In recent years, the Truman Review has shared the stories of alumni who have provided services to children in underprivileged regions, advocated for victims of violent crime and contributed to research combating diseases affecting millions. When it comes to Truman alumni, these stories are the norm, not the exception.

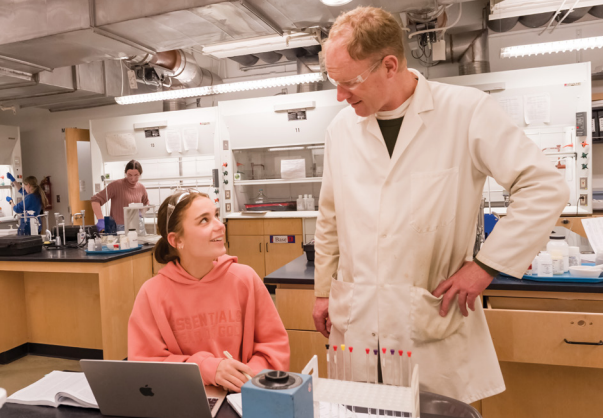
"From implementing focused workforce solutions close to home to supporting humanitarian outreach around the globe, our alumni are force multipliers who make the world a better place," said University President Sue Thomas. "Truman graduates have an outsized impact."



IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE

Truman graduates have a fondness for altruism. The underlying philosophy of normal schools, which the University was at the time of its founding in 1867, was education is inherently good. A better educated populace leads to a stronger community. Knowledge is the high tide that lifts all boats. Although Truman State University might be different in many ways from North Missouri Normal School and Commercial College, the noble elements of its founding have remained throughout its existence and are stronger now than ever. Literally from its inception, the University was devoted to producing graduates who are dedicated to service beyond self – who go out into the world with the goal of contributing to the common good.

The Truman of today is built on the foundation of that service-based model. The thousands of teachers the University counts among its alumni are regularly recognized as the best in their schools, districts and states, and the effect they have on their students is immeasurable. Collectively, this group will never be among the wealthiest alumni, at least not in dollars and cents. Education is calling, and those who heed it know the true reward.



"When I first decided to become a music educator, I was motivated by the idea of giving students the gifts that music had given me up to that point in my life," said Brad Balog ('98, '00, '01), director of bands at Lafayette High School. "Since then, it has become so much more for me. The relationships that I have forged with students and their families, the opportunity to do something that really makes a difference and matters in the lives of so many, the chance to support future educators across the state are all just parts of why being an educator is so fulfilling. Despite all of the demands and current challenges in education, in the end we have the chance to positively affect so many young people every day."

Administrators in school districts throughout the state understand the impact Truman graduates can have, and it's why they are highly sought after for open positions. By adopting the Master of Arts in Education model more than 30 years ago, the University added to its legacy of producing quality teachers. The MAE model was originally imagined by President Walter Ryle as far back as the 1930s, and it is an example of Truman being visionary in the preparation of its graduates. They enter the workforce with a deep understanding of their subject matter and their students, and their advanced skills lead to increased pay during their careers, making them more likely to stay in the field.

AS TRUMAN EVOLVED FROM ITS NORMAL SCHOOL ORIGINS,

so did the number of ways its alumni can and do make a difference in the world. Many start their post-graduate careers in service to others, including through the military, governmental work or other public service.

All totaled, 247 alumni have served as Peace Corps volunteers since 1961. After graduating, Damian Chavez ('14) taught English in Armenia. He credits the relationships he forged during that time for making the experience particularly rewarding, like when students he coached participated and found success in a debate tournament while competing in their non-native language.

"Peace Corps volunteers serve for two-plus years. During that time, you experience the full range of human interaction and emotion. There are ups, downs and plenty of sideways. Most things are more challenging than we're used to, but there's also a lot that is fun and satisfying," Chavez said.

Long before the Peace Corps was established, Bulldogs were serving the greater good in foreign lands, primarily through the armed forces. It can be difficult to properly access military service among alumni. With the exception of students utilizing the GI Bill to help with their education, most military affiliation comes after graduation and is only known to the University if it is self-reported. It can safely be assumed alumni as far back as the school's early days have military ties, most notable among them being 1880 graduate Gen. John J. Pershing, who would go on to serve as Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. Many made the ultimate sacrifice, including Jedh Barker, the University's only Medal of Honor recipient who posthumously received the award for his acts of heroism during the Vietnam War.

Since the 1969-70 school year, more than 800 students have been commissioned through the University's participation in the ROTC program. In 2023, the program was ranked No. 12 in the nation by the U.S. Army Cadet Command. When it was inexplicably slated for inactivation last year, stakeholders including President Thomas, members of the Board of Governors and regiment alumni, along with legislators and friends on the state and federal levels, rallied in support. At the beginning of the academic year, the decision was reversed and the ROTC program will continue operations at Truman for the foreseeable future.

"Truman has developed quality leaders for over half a century. These officers have become career military leaders, politicians, corporate heads, authors, educators and national figures at the highest levels across our great country. Truman's Army ROTC will continue forging quality graduates who will become tomorrow's leaders," said Billy Burse ('73), retired Army colonel and past president of Truman's ROTC alumni regiment.

WHEN IT CAME TO RETAINING THE ROTC PROGRAM,

it no doubt helped that Truman alumni have been joining the ranks of government and public service for years. From school boards to Senate seats and countless posts in between, University graduates across the political spectrum find ways to contribute to their communities through the public sector. It is a natural progression since a liberal arts and sciences background provides an array of knowledge, and Truman prides itself on teaching students *how* to think rather than *what* to think. This enables them to synthesize information and make the best possible decision for their constituents.

One University experience which contributes widely to careers in public service is the Missouri Government Internship Program. Since the early 1970s, Truman students interested in public service careers have had the opportunity to spend a semester in Jefferson City working as full-time staff assistants with a legislator or state public official. Many former interns have gone on to serve as legislative directors, chiefs of staff, judicial clerks, policy analysts, lobbyists and public officials as a direct result of what they learned and the connections they made as interns.

"The Missouri Government Internship was a great springboard for law school because it gave me a thorough understanding of the legislative process. Its value wasn't limited to law school, either. Because the internship was full time, it was a perfect transition to the professional world, and it accelerated my development. I still keep in touch with folks I met during the internship," said Bradley Craigmyle, who completed the internship in 2014 and is now the deputy assistant attorney general, Environment and Natural Resources Division, with the U.S. Department of Justice.



ANOTHER WAY TRUMAN GRADUATES MAKE TANGIBLE DIFFERENCES

is through their work in health and wellness related industries. In the most recent academic year, approximately 45% of Truman students pursued degrees traditionally associated with the health care field, including biology, nursing, health science, exercise science, counseling, psychology and communication disorders.

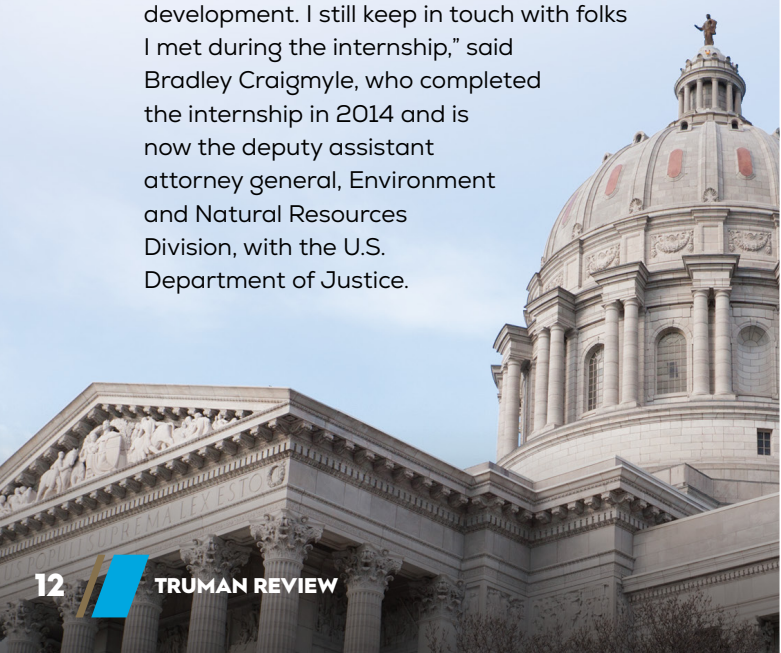
"Graduates of the Truman nursing program are in high demand as evidenced by a 100% employment rate upon graduation," said Cindy Waller, chair and associate professor of nursing. "Through a wide variety of liberal arts and sciences courses, nursing courses and clinical experiences offered to Truman nursing students, our graduates are well prepared to enter the nursing workforce upon graduation."

Whether it is firsthand interactions with patients, or contributions through research and other tangential aspects, countless University alumni have dedicated their careers to improving the mental and physical wellness of others. That commitment can be seen in action not far from the heart of campus at the Greenwood Interprofessional Autism Center. After nearly a decade in planning, followed by renovations to a beloved historical elementary school, the converted facility is now more than two years into seeing patients and recently added diagnostic assessments to its list of services.

"We have seen children who are non-verbal find ways to communicate with their families or gain independence by being able to master tasks that seemed unattainable to them not that long ago," said Dr. Maryellen Koch Jensen, Greenwood director. "That type of progress can make a real difference in the quality of life for our clients and families."

A different kind of community-focused University project is just getting off the ground. The Senator Roy and Abby Blunt SKILLS Center, located in the Kirk Building, partners with the University Career Center, Tutoring Services, Access and Disability Services, the Center for Academic Excellence, the Communication Lab and the Writing Center. Its focus is on providing education and services for the local community and employers to enhance workforce readiness.

"Truman and the SKILLS Center are committed to the success of the Kirksville community and northeast Missouri towns and businesses," said Craig Berryman, director of the SKILLS Center. "We want to improve and empower our workforce and employers to be competitive locally and nationally. We will do that through positive education and upskilling to generate greater economic opportunities for our community workforce."





THERE IS NO WAY TO ACCURATELY QUANTIFY how much Truman and its alumni contribute to their communities, but some things can be measured. A 2022 Economic Impact Study commissioned by the University (economicimpact.truman.edu) showed Truman generated \$561.7 million in income to the Missouri economy in the previous fiscal year. The study also noted the average bachelor's degree graduate from Truman will see increased earnings of \$30,800 per year compared to a person without a degree working in Missouri. Regardless of the field of study, simply earning a degree from Truman puts a graduate on a trajectory for increased income, and their contributions through their careers make them self-sufficient drivers of the economy.

Truman is a model of efficiency and one of the wisest investments in the state of Missouri, proof of which can be found in its high retention and graduation rates. By and large, the students who come to Truman stay, they graduate and, most importantly, they take their new-found skills out in the world and use them to make a difference. The economic impact study showed for every dollar invested in Truman the state of Missouri receives nearly nine dollars in return.

Contributions can come in as many ways as there are alumni, which speaks to the versatility of a Truman degree. That is the key to the value of a liberal arts and sciences education in the years to come. While change is always constant, nearly every industry and occupation today seems to be in the midst of unprecedented disruption. Whether it is the continued development of the global marketplace or the impact of AI on the humans in it, careers of today evolve more rapidly than ever. This makes essential

skills such as critical-thinking, communication, problem-solving and leadership – all markers of a liberal arts and sciences education – even more valuable.

"I consistently hear from employers that strong communication, adaptability and problem-solving are among the most sought-after skills in candidates across industries," said Alison Ayers, executive director of career services and employer relations. "A liberal arts and sciences education develops these competencies alongside a student's area of study. As industries continue to evolve in response to emerging technologies,

including AI, these skills remain essential. They equip graduates to think critically and lead with purpose while bringing creativity to complex challenges in any career field."

Though the landscape of the job market may change, liberal arts and sciences graduates will invariably be able to find their way in it. There will perpetually be challenges requiring creative, original thought to devise a solution. Organizations will need leaders to harness the power of their workforces. The individuals required to meet these challenges will consistently be in demand, and there will always be a need for a training ground where they can learn today how to meet the unknown challenges of tomorrow.

As the future unfolds, Truman and its graduates will continue to

diligently and humbly live the value of the school's vision statement, which calls for "developing educated citizens needed to protect our democracy and offer creative solutions to local, state, national and global problems." Their efforts may at times go unnoticed, but that's not why they do what they do. The world is a better place because Truman and its alumni are in it. While that statement might be immeasurable, it remains factual.



I consistently hear from employers that strong communication, adaptability and problem-solving are among the most sought-after skills in candidates across industries. A liberal arts and sciences education develops these competencies alongside a student's area of study."

– **ALISON AYERS**
executive director of career services and employer relations

That'll Do

Since attending college at his father's urging, Robert McConnell has found success on two seemingly divergent paths.

AS FAR AS SECRET IDENTITIES GO, Robert McConnell is on par with Bruce Wayne. By day, he is a mild-mannered Iowa hog farmer, carrying on a family tradition while contributing to one of the state's largest economic drivers. By night, he dons a dark suit, and while he's not fighting crime like Batman, the alter ego is no less surprising – he's the music director and CEO of a symphony orchestra.

Since 1990, McConnell has served as the music director of the Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra. Last year, he added CEO to his list of duties with the organization. It's one of many lines on his musical curriculum vitae. Since graduating from the University with a Bachelor of Music Education degree, McConnell ('77) has taught music abroad in Israel, conducted a municipal band, participated in musical theatre, worked on the staff of Iowa Wesleyan University and spent 26 years as the principal oboe with the Quad City Symphony.

Throughout all his musical excursions, McConnell has remained involved in pork production. He owns and operates a medium-sized hog farm that feeds roughly 21,000 animals a year near Washington, Iowa. His double life has led to some interesting reactions from hog farmers and musicians alike.

"It really depends on how people know me, but I would say basically 100% of people are surprised," he said.

It speaks to the value of a liberal arts education that an individual can excel in such disparate fields. McConnell, however, never intended to embark on the path that has opened so many doors for him.

"I was not originally planning to go to college, and my dad more or less made me go. Once I arrived, I just loved it," he said. "For me, it's hard to overstate the impact that Truman had. You're a kid from a hog farm who didn't really want to go to college, and then you become addicted to music."

Like any good musical director, McConnell is quick to share credit. He attributes much of his success to the faculty members who supported him, as well as his membership in Phi Mu

Alpha. Still, he did not fully appreciate his experience at Truman until he earned his Master of Arts degree in oboe performance from Temple University.

"Something I realized when I went to graduate school was that the music standards at Truman – for performing and for general musicianship – were really high. I attribute that primarily to the caliber of faculty," he said. "It was just fantastic training. When I run into Truman graduates in music, they tell me they've had the same experience."

McConnell has called on Truman-trained musicians several times throughout the years. Many of the musicians he directs and performs with either received

degrees from Truman or are members of the faculty. The relationship works out well for performers and audiences alike as McConnell continues to spread the joy of music throughout smaller communities in the Midwest.

"These orchestras in rural areas give players the opportunity to perform at a higher level than they would otherwise have access to, and what the community gets in return is invaluable: skilled musicians for their churches, for weddings and funerals, for school and community musicals, and simply an enriched quality of life in the region," he said.

Under McConnell's leadership, SEISO has become one of Iowa's most prominent community-based orchestras. In addition to live performances, it provides educational opportunities and rural outreach programs for all ages.

"It is a great outlet for teachers, helping them maintain their skills and motivate their most talented students," he said.

One of the orchestra's recent stops found McConnell in familiar territory. SEISO performed as part of the Kohlenberg Lyceum Series in March,

marking the first time

McConnell has been on the Baldwin Auditorium stage since he was a student.

"I remember distinctly my very first band rehearsal in Baldwin Hall. I was sitting next to two fantastic clarinetists – Ellen Lavender and Clay Pickens – and after the rehearsal I told band director Tom Duden that I didn't think I was up to playing in the band. He told me, 'Don't worry about it,'" McConnell said. "Returning to that hall, all those years later, brought a lot of that back. I didn't think I was a good enough player to achieve what I ended up doing. I feel like a lot of my life has been serendipity. Opportunities came up and they worked to my advantage."



Photo by Diana Nollen

Surgical Precision

The only path Megan Sharpe follows is her own. Her calculated approach to planning her career now has her carving out a spot in one of the most in-demand specialties in the medical field.

AT FIRST GLANCE, it would be easy to categorize Megan Sharpe ('13) as a free spirit. She picked Truman after making a surprise stop on campus en route to visiting another school. She played professional volleyball in two European countries after graduation. She was a non-traditional medical school student who picked a notoriously difficult specialty, in part because she loves a challenge.

"I've had a few different lifetimes," said Sharpe, who is still only 34 years old.

To simply portray Sharpe as karmically blessed discounts her tireless work ethic and ability to strategically assess multiple scenarios. Medical school is the prime example. Before she ever set foot on campus, Sharpe knew she wanted to do something in health care and medicine. In addition to majoring in biology, she was a standout athlete in both volleyball and basketball.

"After being so busy in college, going right to medical school was not the thing I wanted to do," she said. "I wanted to work and make sure that medicine was going to be the actual thing I wanted to do."

Sharpe took a little time for herself, first as a professional volleyball player in Italy and Slovenia. After exploring that option, she returned to the St. Louis area and made use of her degree

working in microbiology and biopharmaceutical labs. She also earned a master's degree in biology from Washington University. Those experiences made a career in medicine come into focus.

“Getting to help people is one of the most noble things you could strive to do in life,” she said. “I like to be challenged, and I’ve never wanted to be bored in my life, or not busy. Medicine gave me that perfect balance of being able to do the things I wanted to do, and then also do the things I already seem to be pretty good at doing.”



During medical school at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, Sharpe continued to trust her strategic instincts, knowing she would be picking a specialty that would shape her career and life. After deciding on neurosurgery, she remained in Ohio conducting research for a year.

“I kind of chose neurosurgery late, so I needed to make sure it’s what I wanted to do. It helps to have a research year to make connections,” she said. “I came in knowing I wanted to do probably something surgical, working with my hands, and probably something a little fast paced.”

Now a surgical resident at the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine, Sharpe has no regrets about coming to the profession later than her peers. She credits her work experience and research efforts for establishing a proper foundation on which to build her career.

“I’m glad I did it the way I did,” she said. “If I had done it right after college, I just would have not been as mature, would have not handled things as well, and maybe not known as well who I was and what I wanted to do.”

That mindset will help Sharpe greatly as she continues her residency. It is estimated one in three people are affected by neurological conditions, and there is a projected shortage up to 20% of active neurologists in the next decade. While the job can take

a toll, Sharpe finds solace in victories such as removing brain tumors, conducting spinal surgeries, combating peripheral nerve cancers and helping patients regain the use of limbs once so damaged they could not move.

“Sometimes you can get lost in the day-to-day and forget the bigger picture of why you’re doing this,” she said. “The patients are obviously a big, big part of that. It’s certainly motivating to see a patient do well, come back and see us and be in a better position than they were.”

Sharpe also credits her athletic career with shaping her post-collegiate plans. During her time on campus, she became Truman’s first four-time American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American. When she graduated, she was ranked in the program’s top 10 in hitting percentage, total blocks and kills. On the hardwood, she played in

82 games for teams that made three-straight trips to the MIAA tournament. Beyond wins and losses, or any personal accolades, her experiences as a student-athlete helped her become the person she is today.

“Being able to go through those processes and to develop the mental and physical toughness, I think has helped me get this far,” she said. “It’s an important part of my journey.”

It should not be overlooked that Sharpe’s Truman career almost didn’t happen. Her first trip to campus was unplanned and came via some unsolicited motherly guidance.

“My mom didn’t really tell me where we were going. She was like, ‘this coach has been asking about you, and the school’s really good. Let’s stop here,’” Sharpe said. “Then I got there and met everyone, and saw the school and what it was about, and it really won me over. It seemed perfect for me.”

Like so many other endeavors in her life, Sharpe kept an open mind and let the facts of the situation speak for themselves. It worked out then, and at every other milestone in her life. When her seven-year residency is complete, she will have still more decisions to make, from possible fellowships to potentially going into private practice, not to mention where she might call home. Whatever she does, Sharpe will have examined every angle in depth, and she will undoubtedly be successful.



Lightning Strikes Twice

Larry Lunsford will be the second person with a Truman connection to oversee a global organization comprised of more than a million members.



Photos by Rotary International

NO GAMBLER IN THEIR RIGHT MIND would take the odds. A trained accountant with a head for numbers, Larry Lunsford surely wouldn't either. Lunsford is in line to be president of Rotary International, beginning his term July 1, 2027. To be the head of an organization with more than 1.2 million members is statistically unlikely. To be the second person with a Truman connection to have the role in less than 20 years is nearly unfathomable.

"It is absolutely amazing that both Ray and I have had this opportunity," Lunsford said.

"Ray," is Ray Klingensmith, who worked for the University for 22 years in a variety of roles. The connection between Lunsford and Klingensmith actually runs much deeper, enough to make almost anyone believe in fate.

Growing up in the small town of Macon, Missouri, Lunsford did not have global ambitions. He may have crossed state lines once or twice

during his burgeoning athletic career in both baseball and basketball. One of the people who used to watch him play was Klingensmith, a fellow Macon resident and the University's general counsel for much of the 1970s. Lunsford was also gifted academically, and when this first-generation college student earned a prestigious Pershing Scholarship, Klingensmith was assigned to be his mentor.

As Lunsford approached completion of his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1981, Klingensmith encouraged him to apply for a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship. Upon his selection, Lunsford ended up putting his original post-graduate plans on hold to spend a year at the University of Newcastle in Australia.

"The whole experience going to Australia was massive for me – life changing for me – as many international experiences are," he said. "I'm a perfect example of being a beneficiary of an

engaged Rotarian in a local Rotary club.”

Lunsford returned to Truman and received his master's in accounting in 1983. A small-town boy no more, he moved to Kansas City and embarked on an impressive career starting with a with a seven-year stint at EY. He is currently in his 36th year with Bernstein-Rein, a family owned advertising agency. Throughout it all, his Rotary experience as a young graduate stayed with him.

“I got that opportunity as a young 23-year-old in Australia for a year, and it absolutely set me on a course of trying to pay back an organization that said ‘yes’ to me,” he said.

A philanthropic person by nature, Lunsford has donated his time to organizations such as Global Ties KC, the Church of the Resurrection Foundation, the Kansas City Spirit Festival and the Epilepsy Foundation for the Heart of America. He has made time for his alma mater, serving on both the Truman Alumni and Foundation boards. Of course, he always made time for Rotary too.

For many, Rotary invokes images of local leaders hobnobbing at weekly lunch meetings, but the organization is massive. There are more than 45,000 Rotary clubs, and they can be found in almost every country in the world. That global network is what gives Rotary power in its philanthropic endeavors, most notably the goal of eradicating polio. With the help of partners including the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Rotary has played a leading role in reducing the number of cases by 99.9% in the last 40 years.

“Rotary started with a sense of networking and building friendship,” Lunsford said. “Through that, you build community, and through that, you then leverage what you’ve grown to a sense of scale that can tackle some of the most pressing challenges the world has to offer.”

One person who played a role in guiding that leverage was Klinginsmith, who served as Rotary International president from 2010-2011. Fifteen years later, his protégé would be nominated to serve in the same capacity. Rotary schedules its presidential leadership three years in advance, giving each nominee two years of preparation before taking the reins for their own one-year term. Presidents can come from anywhere in the world, making the rural Missouri connection all that more improbable. It is certainly not lost on Lunsford, and when it came time to announce his role in organizational leadership, he chose to do so

at events in Macon and Kirksville last year. One of the members in attendance when he returned was 92-year-old Bill Gaines, a Macon-area banker in the Macon County Rotary Club which sponsored his trip to Australia. Sadly, Klinginsmith was not a part of the festivities, having passed away in 2024.



Lunsford's term as president could be a remarkable one. For polio to be considered eradicated there must be three consecutive years of no cases. Through the first four months of 2026, there were only four. Lunsford's term has the potential to be part of the three-year window.

“I think about that,” he said. “Whoever might happen to be serving as president of Rotary International when this happens, we look forward to a great celebration of an incredible milestone.”

As president, Lunsford will spend much of the year traveling. The role comes at a perfect time, as he is moving into more of a consulting role with Bernstein-Rein, and his wife, Jill, recently retired from her career in education.

“We’re fortunate and blessed at the opportunity that we will be filling that passport with stamps from all over the world,” he said.

Wherever the journey takes him, Lunsford will be prepared, and he certainly will not forget where it all started.

“I do feel like I’m in the right place at the right time,” he said. “I’m going to give it everything I have, and I’m going to serve to make Rotarians around the world proud. I hope to make those colleagues and friends who shaped me in Macon and Kirksville proud as well.”



SPORTS

Celebrating Excellence at the Dogspys

TRUMAN ATHLETICS CELEBRATED student-athletes, coaches and supporters during the 10th annual Dogspys awards ceremony this spring.

Among the top honors presented were the Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year awards. Hayden Long earned the men's award after a standout season in track and field, winning the decathlon at the GLVC Championships, while Reese Stovall received the women's honor following an accomplished career in golf. Stovall finished second-team All-GLVC and won the Columbia Cougar Tournament in the fall.

Anna Ripley was named Newcomer of the Year after making an immediate impact for the Bulldogs in both cross country and track and field.

The Bill Cable Spirit of Truman Award was presented to Greg Xander and Ed Dunlap for their continued support of Truman Athletics. Xander was recognized for providing meals and encouragement to student-athletes through the Baptist Student Union, while Dunlap was honored for his behind-the-scenes work helping maintain athletic facilities.



Hayden Long



Reese Stovall



Anna Ripley

Football Returns to Playoffs, Nesbitt Named Coach of the Year

FOR THE FIRST TIME in more than three decades, Truman football is back where many alumni remember it belonging.

The 2025 season marked a turning point for the program, as the Bulldogs returned to the NCAA Division II Playoffs for the first time since 1994. An 8-4 campaign, highlighted by a 7-1 conference record and a second-place finish in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, signaled more than just a successful season. It marked the reestablishment of a program standard.

The postseason result, a loss to nationally ranked Indianapolis in the opening round, does not define what this team accomplished. The significance lies in the breakthrough itself. For a program that had spent decades working back toward national relevance, 2025 delivered that moment.

Under GLVC Coach of the Year Kellen Nesbitt, the Bulldogs developed into one of the most complete teams in the conference. Truman finished second in scoring offense in the GLVC at 36.7 points per game and third in scoring defense,



Kellen Nesbitt

allowing just 22.5. The identity was clear. A physical, disciplined team built around a dominant rushing attack that led the league with more than 2,200 yards.

That production was supported by impact players across the roster. Running back Denim Cook led the conference with 905 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns. Quarterback Dylan Hair directed one of the league's most efficient offenses. Defensively, Truman consistently created disruption and controlled the line of scrimmage.

The depth of the roster showed up in postseason recognition as well. Fifteen Bulldogs earned All-GLVC honors, including seven first-team selections, reflecting one of the strongest collective performances in recent program history.

More important than any single statistic is what this team represents. This was not a one-year surge. It was a team with a defined identity, experienced leadership and a structure built for sustained success.



Denim Cook

Hall of Fame Adds Cross Country Teams



TWO OF THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED TEAMS in University history were inducted into the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame this year, as the 1994 and 1995 men's cross country teams were honored during Hall of Fame Weekend.

Both teams finished third nationally at the NCAA Division II Championships, marking the highest national finishes in program history. The 1994 Bulldogs captured the MIAA championship before advancing to nationals, where they

earned the program's first podium finish. The 1995 team followed by winning the NCAA Great Lakes Regional title and returning to the national podium with another third-place finish.

Together, the teams established Truman as one of the premier Division II cross country programs in the country during the mid-1990s. Led by head coach Ed Schneider, the back-to-back national trophy teams remain one of the defining eras in Bulldog athletics history.

A Legacy Measured in Lives Changed



John Cochrane

SOME COACHES ARE

REMEMBERED for wins. Others are remembered for records. John Cochrane will be remembered for something larger.

For more than three decades, Cochrane shaped Truman track and field and cross country programs through a rare combination of competitive excellence, personal sacrifice and unwavering belief in student-athletes. His passing in March marked the loss of one of the most influential figures in Bulldog Athletics history, but his impact remains woven into the fabric of the program he helped build.

From 1980 until his retirement in 2013, Cochrane led Truman's women's track and field and cross country programs, later taking over the men's teams as well.

Under Cochrane's leadership, Truman athletes won multiple NCAA national titles and earned dozens of All-America honors across track and field, cross country and relay competition. His teams captured seven conference championships, including a remarkable sweep of indoor track, outdoor track and cross country in 2000. He was recognized repeatedly by peers and governing bodies for coaching excellence and service to the sport.

What made Cochrane special was the way he built opportunity where resources were limited and belief where obstacles

existed. He invested in facilities, helped modernize training spaces, directed meets, recruited tirelessly and often purchased equipment himself when athletes needed it. If something could help the program move forward, he found a way to make it happen. He was known for personalized workouts posted daily on brightly colored paper, for driving beside runners during training sessions, and for staying connected with former athletes long after graduation. Coaching, for Cochrane, did not end when eligibility expired.

That is why his legacy extends far beyond championships. Generations of Truman student-athletes remember him not simply as a coach, but as a mentor who demanded effort, cared deeply and helped shape the direction of their lives. He built teams, but more importantly, he built people.

In 2013, Cochrane was inducted into the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame. It was a fitting honor for a career that transformed an entire program. Yet the truest measure of his legacy is not found in banners or trophies. It lives in the athletes who still carry his lessons, the coaches who learned from his example and the program standards he helped establish. Cochrane's time on the sideline has ended. His influence has not.



Connecting a Community Through Conversation

"REIGNING CATS & DOGS," the weekly coaches podcast featuring Truman State University and Kirksville High School athletics, completed a successful first season this spring.

Hosted by Kirksville Daily Express sports editor Henry Janssen ('16) the show aired weekly during the academic year and offered listeners an inside look at local athletics through conversations with coaches, activity directors and administrators. Topics included recent competition, team development, leadership and what lies ahead for each program.

Season one featured 22 episodes and included more than 50 guests representing a wide range of sports and activities from both Truman and KHS. The show also continued to improve throughout the year with stronger audio and video production, including the addition of a full backdrop and upgraded presentation elements.

Season two is scheduled to begin in September, continuing a growing platform that has helped connect the Kirksville community with the people leading local athletics.

"Reigning Cats & Dogs" can be found on the Truman Athletics YouTube channel, TrumanStateBulldogs, as well as Spotify and Apple podcasts by searching "Reigning Cats & Dogs."



Mike Worley, Paul Yoder, Cruz Lewis and Henry Janssen ('16)

Dean Becomes Winningest Coach in Program History



Theo Dean

THEO DEAN BECAME THE WINNINGEST HEAD COACH in Truman women's basketball history during the 2025-26 season, earning his record-setting 113th career victory in an 82-76 win over Indianapolis, Feb. 26. Dean also reached another milestone earlier in the season when the Bulldogs defeated Southwest Baptist 90-55, Dec. 6, for his 100th career win.

Since taking over the program in 2019, Dean has helped guide Truman women's basketball through one of its strongest stretches in recent history. His teams earned multiple postseason appearances, a GLVC divisional championship and established a consistent standard of success in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Dean's program also excelled academically, producing more than 80 Academic All-GLVC selections so far during his tenure. A former Truman student manager, graduate assistant and assistant coach, Dean became the program's full-time head coach in January 2020 and the first African-American head coach in school history.



A Career Defined by Standards

STEVE SMITH RETIRED THIS SPRING after decades of service to Truman as both a faculty member and head tennis coach.



Steve Smith

A member of the faculty staff since 1988, Smith taught mathematics courses for generations of students. His academic background includes degrees from North Dakota State University, where he was also a tennis student-athlete, as well as master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from Oregon State University.

In 2019, Smith added coaching duties, becoming Truman's head tennis coach. During his tenure, the Bulldogs posted .500 or better records in five seasons and concluded the 2026 campaign with a 12-10 mark.

Smith emphasized respect for teammates, opponents and the game itself, values that shaped the culture of the program throughout his time as coach. His retirement marked the close of a unique Truman career that combined excellence in the classroom with leadership in athletics.

WOMEN'S SOCCER



Quinn Nauman

Quinn Nauman was named 2025 third-team All-GLVC and third-team USC All-Midwest Region. Nauman led the Bulldogs to a 5-6-5 record, while leading the team in both goals and assists, with five goals and four assists on the season.

MEN'S SOCCER



Jacob Panagos

Jacob Panagos had a breakout season, leading the Bulldogs with seven goals, two assists and 16 total points for the year. Panagos was named second-team All-GLVC and CSC Academic All-District at the midfielder position.

VOLLEYBALL



Tori Creason

The Truman Bulldogs volleyball team qualified for their first GLVC Tournament since 2020 as the No. 6 seed. Junior setter **Tori Creason** was named second-team All-GLVC and led the team with 737 total assists and started all 29 matches played.

TOP DOGS



Julian Brown

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Julian Brown led the Bulldogs in points scored with 15.3 ppg. He also led the team in total minutes played and shot more than 37% from three-point range. The Bulldogs finished 12-16 and Brown was named second-team All-GLVC.



Jacob Wolf

MEN'S SWIMMING

Jacob Wolf had a record-breaking season for the Bulldogs in his sophomore year. Wolf broke school records in both the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke events and reset the 100-yard record during the finals of the GLVC Championships.



Emajin McCallop

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Emajin McCallop was an immediate impact player her first year at Truman. McCallop led the team in scoring with 15.6 ppg and shot nearly 46% from the field. For her efforts, McCallop earned first-team All-GLVC and GLVC All-Newcomer Team Honors.



Taylor Graham

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Taylor Graham wrapped up her senior year with All-GLVC honors in the 1,500-yard freestyle event. Graham set a personal best in the finals with a time of 17:55.90 and was also the leadoff leg on the 400-yard freestyle relay.



Nick Steurer

BASEBALL

Freshman **Nick Steurer** set the new single-season Truman record with 20 doubles in the 2026 season. He also finished second in most triples in a season in school history. Steurer led the GLVC in batting average, hitting .427 across 44 games.



Sydney Dial

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Bulldogs women's tennis team was awarded the GLVC James R. Spaulding Sportsmanship team award for the second straight year and finished with a 12-10 record. Senior **Sydney Dial** ended her accomplished career with a singles record of 12-11.



Cassie Smith

SOFTBALL

Senior **Cassie Smith** led the GLVC in batting average, hitting .494 for the season and also totaled the most hits in the conference with 83. Smith was named to the NFCA Player of the Year Watchlist midseason and finishes her career top 10 in several Truman categories, including career hits.



Destiny Zimdars

WOMEN'S TRACK AND CROSS COUNTRY

Senior thrower **Destiny Zimdars** was named GLVC Field Athlete of the Week during the indoor track and field season. She also earned All-GLVC honors at the conference championships by finishing third in the weight throw with a mark of 17.07 m.

ALUMNI

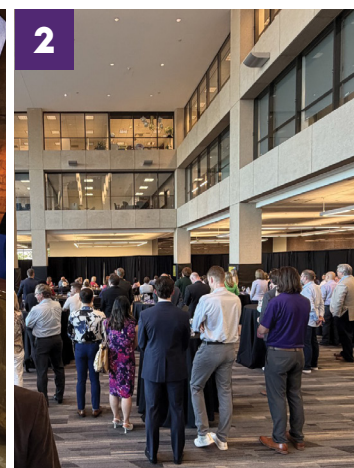
EVENTS



You never know where you're going to find Bulldogs in the wild! Alumni events in the past year gave alumni and friends the opportunity to serve, socialize and grow professionally. If you missed these events, don't worry. There will be plenty of chances to catch us on the road in the future. Make sure your email address is up to date so you don't miss out!

update.truman.edu

1. Chicago Networking Event
2. St. Louis Growing Truman Connections
3. Paint the Town Purple Phoenix
4. Mid-Atlantic Capitol Tour
5. KC Alumni & Student Pickleball Event
6. Mid-Atlantic BBQ & Book Drive
7. Mid-Missouri Freshman Send Off
8. St. Louis Legal Connections Event
9. Homecoming - Golden Alumni
10. Homecoming - Parade
11. Homecoming - Reception
12. KC Truman Library & Museum Tour
13. Northeast Missouri Alumni Chapter Lyceum Reception
14. Northeast Missouri Basketball Game
15. KC T-Shotz Golf Event
16. Alumni Fellows & Echo 25 Awards
17. Truman Football Home Opener with Northeast Missouri Alumni
18. Bulldog Nation Road Show - St. Louis
19. Bulldog Nation Road Show - Kirksville
20. Bulldog Nation Road Show - Kansas City
21. St. Louis Alumni & Friends BBQ
22. Northeast Missouri Alumni Chapter Fall Banquet
23. Bulldog Nation Road Show - Columbia
24. Alumni Shirts for New Graduates
25. KC Trans World Airlines Museum Tour





ALUMNI & FRIENDS BOOK CLUB

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS BOOK CLUB will feature "What's Done in Darkness" by Truman alumna Laura McHugh ('96).

Named one of the best books of the year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "What's Done in Darkness" is a suspenseful thriller about Sarabeth, a teenager from a strict, religious Arkansas family who is abducted and later dumped by a masked man. Years later, while living under a new name, she returns to her hometown to help investigate similar disappearances and uncover buried secrets.

McHugh graduated from Truman with a degree in English in 1996. She is an award-winning, internationally

bestselling author. She grew up in small towns in Iowa and Missouri, and all of her books are set in the rural Midwest. "What's Done in Darkness," like her other novels, has elements of true crime and family secrets woven into a compelling page turner. The Truman Alumni & Friends Book Club will wrap with a virtual conversation with McHugh at noon (Central) on July 8. To learn more about this year's Alumni & Friends Book Club, or to register for the virtual discussion with McHugh, email bulldogforever@truman.edu.



Join the Alumni Association

THE TRUMAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION fosters and strengthens lifelong relationships with Truman by **connecting alumni to each other, connecting alumni to the University and connecting others to the University**. Joining the Alumni Association is an investment in a stronger Bulldog network that supports alumni and helps sustain Truman's tradition of excellence long past graduation. Membership in the Alumni Association includes membership in an Alumni Chapter of your choice for no additional charge. You can also purchase gift memberships to the Alumni Association to help other Bulldogs connect to Truman's alumni network. Membership is just \$40 for an individual or \$60 for a couple. Graduates within the last three years



can join for half price! Join now for discounted tickets to alumni events, free passes to the Truman Recreation Center and access to a members-only alumni portal.



SCAN TO JOIN

Help us recognize outstanding alumni leaders!

EVERY YEAR AT HOMECOMING, the Alumni Association presents the Denise L. Smith Volunteer of the Year Award, The Bulldog Forever Alumni Group of the Year Award and The Bulldog Forever Initiative of the Year Award. These awards recognize outstanding service, sustained alumni involvement and exemplary initiatives that connect alumni to one another and to the University. The Alumni Association needs your help identifying alumni for these prestigious honors. Read more about these awards and nominate alumni online at truman.edu/alumni-donors/awards-recognition.



Gary Evans ('76, '77, '79), representative of the Truman Alumni Football Group, 2025 recipient of the Bulldog Forever Alumni Group of the Year

Zac Burden, ('03, '09), 2025 recipient of the Denise L. Smith Volunteer of the Year Award and University President Sue Thomas



GIVING MATTERS

Jackson Brings Relationship-Driven Leadership to Advancement

JACKIE JACKSON ASSUMED THE ROLE of vice president for advancement at Truman State University in January 2026, bringing more than 15 years of higher education advancement experience and a strong commitment to strengthening the role alumni engagement and philanthropy plays in student success.



Jackie Jackson

As vice president, Jackson leads Truman's fundraising and alumni relations efforts, working closely with the Truman State University Foundation, Alumni Association, campus partners and supporters to build meaningful connections that advance the University's mission.

"With the rapidly evolving higher education landscape, and our deep and unwavering commitment to student support and success, the work of advancement has never been more important," said University President Sue Thomas. "Jackie brings invaluable strategic knowledge and expertise, as well as great energy to the role, and I am excited for what her leadership will accomplish for Truman."

Since arriving at Truman, Jackson has focused on listening and learning, meeting with campus leaders, alumni, donors, board members and community partners to better understand Truman's strengths, traditions and opportunities for

growth. She has also enjoyed becoming part of the Kirksville community with her family.

Jackson is active in organizations that build community and create opportunities for service, including P.E.O. and Rotary. She earned an Ed.D. in organizational leadership in higher

education from Abilene Christian University and holds two degrees from the University of Central Missouri.

"From the first time I stepped on campus, I knew Truman was a special place, distinguished by a passionate and deeply engaged network of alumni and supporters," Jackson said. "It is exciting to partner with the Advancement team to promote and elevate the institution's impact while ensuring student success for generations to come."

Alumni and friends are encouraged to connect with Jackson to share their Truman story, discuss ways to get involved or learn more about supporting the University.

CONTACT

Jackie Jackson

Vice President for Advancement

Email: jsjackson@truman.edu

Phone: 660.785.6076

Take a Seat, Leave a Legacy

NAME A SEAT in Baldwin Hall Auditorium for yourself or in honor or memory of someone special, and help keep Truman's stage filled with memorable performances and educational experiences for generations to come.



Scan the QR code to name a seat in Baldwin Auditorium.

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
Celebration



University President Sue Thomas with Jennifer D. Austin ('92, '93)

THE FOUNDATION CELEBRATION took place April 11, honoring the impact alumni and friends make at Truman through philanthropy. New members of Truman's prestigious giving societies were recognized, and Jennifer D. Austin ('92, '93) was bestowed with the President's Leadership Award for her years of engagement and generosity. As a partner at KPMG, Austin played a key role in establishing the KPMG Accounting Excellence Fund, and she has recently established the Jennifer D. Austin Accounting Excellence Fund to further support the program that helped shape her commitment to excellence and thoughtful leadership.



BY THE NUMBERS

One day. Hundreds of donors.
Thousands of students supported.

3 Featured
Giving Opportunities

Children's Literature Festival
\$31,365

General Scholarship Fund
\$15,517

Truman Food Pantry
\$15,976

10 Challenge Gifts
Unlocked

Total raised
\$149,987

439 Total
donors

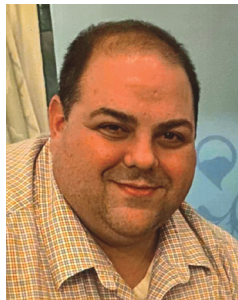


University President Sue Thomas, Rich Cole ('80), Steve Clem ('73) and Eric Rosenbloom ('85)

Phi Lamb Scholarship

ALUMNI MEMBERS of the Phi Lambda Chi/Phi Lambda Phi fraternity donated more than \$130,000 to establish the Phi Lamb Scholarship endowment. Steve Clem ('73) shared, "Fraternities and sororities are as valuable now as ever. They build character, develop leadership abilities and establish community bonds that last a lifetime. It is an honor to support those ideals in current Truman students."

Matthew Doyle (PwC)
Accounting Scholarship



LONGTIME Truman Accountancy Advisory Board member Matthew "Matt" Doyle ('00, '02) passed away unexpectedly, Jan. 17, 2026. In honor of his career, Doyle's close friends and coworkers established a scholarship with matching gifts from PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP (PwC). With more than \$300,000 in gifts, this endowed scholarship is anticipated to generate more than \$12,000 annually in scholarship support for accounting students who hail from the St. Louis area.



From Alumni Support to Student Opportunity

INTERNSHIPS ARE AN INVALUABLE PART of a student's education, providing practical experience that connects classroom learning to real-world challenges.

As Truman looks to the future, the University's new strategic plan emphasizes intentional curricular and co-curricular opportunities to prepare students for life beyond the classroom. By building essential professional skills within the richness of a liberal arts and sciences education, Truman graduates gain a distinct advantage.

That advantage grows even stronger when alumni open doors for current students and recent graduates. Whether by offering internships, hiring Truman graduates, serving as mentors or making professional introductions, alumni play a powerful role in helping students translate their Truman education into meaningful careers.

Knowing the value of an internship experience and the power of alumni engagement, Shannon ('02) and Mike ('02) Favazza hosted 50 close friends and colleagues for a Truman event at their home at the end of February. Shannon, a principal at Edward Jones and member of Truman's Business Advisory Board, and Mike, chief financial officer at Remiger Design, an architecture and interior design firm, were looking for ways to support the University

and knew they could make a big impact if they gathered the right people together.

The Favazzas established the St. Louis Area Internship Access Fund to offer more opportunities to Truman students seeking internships in the St. Louis area. The initiative advances student access, equity and career readiness and is especially designed for students in unpaid, underpaid or financially inaccessible internships.

With gifts from the kickoff event, the fund initially reached more than \$35,000 in commitments. The momentum continued at the Growing Truman Connections event hosted at Edward Jones' St. Louis headquarters on April 22, where more than 150 guests heard from Alison Ayers, executive director of career services and employer relations, and Truman student Anna Kuhnert ('26) about the new initiative. Now at more than \$40,000, the fund is expected to support 20 students.

As Truman continues to emphasize experiential learning and career readiness, alumni and friends have an exciting opportunity to help students take the next step. Private support makes internships more accessible, while alumni employers create lasting impact by hiring Truman students and graduates, offering internships and connecting talented Bulldogs to meaningful professional opportunities.

The St. Louis Area Internship Access Fund demonstrates how philanthropy can help students pursue their goals while reinforcing one of Truman's greatest strengths: a network of alumni who invest in the next generation through both generosity and opportunity.

Internships have the power to completely shape a student's future, but not every student has equal access to those opportunities. My internship in St. Louis gave me the confidence and professional experience that helped prepare me for a full-time career after graduation. Through my experiences at Truman State University, I learned how to communicate professionally, adapt quickly and contribute with confidence from day one. Support for internship access means investing in students' futures and creating opportunities that truly can change lives.

– ANNA KUHNERT ('26)



Scan the QR code to provide financial support for the St. Louis Area Internship Access Fund.

Tried & True

IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPACT OF DONORS who give year after year, Truman has unveiled the Tried & True consecutive giving society. Tried & True honors donors who give consecutively in two or more fiscal years at any amount. Consecutive donors provide a stable base of support to advance the University. Connecting to University history, each of the Tried & True levels are named in honor of notable faculty from Truman's past.



Tried & True Ferris Level donors



Tried & True Pickler Level donors

**2-4 Years
Ferris Level**
*in honor of
Frank L. and
L.D. Ferris*

**5-9 Years
Greenwood
Level**
*in honor of James
and Amanda
Greenwood*

**10-14 Years
Violette Level**
*in honor of
E.M. Violette*

**15-24 Years
Parrish Level**
*in honor of Ophelia
Parrish*

**25-49 Years
Pickler Level**
*in honor of
Samuel M. Pickler*

**50+ Years
Towne Level**
*in honor of
Ruth Warner
Towne*

MEMORIAM

1940s

Lyle Wendell Burroughs ('44) Dec. 26, 2025
Virginia (Rank) Platz ('46) June 22, 2018
Mabel "Virginia" (Maulsby) Torrey ('48) June 4, 2025

1950s

Lavon (Botts) May ('50, '77) Sept. 11, 2025
Nancy "Sugy" Jean (Caldwell) Rainey ('51) Feb. 21, 2026
Jerry Dean Bogener ('52, '53) Feb. 3, 2026
John V. Cox ('52) March 1, 2026
Mary Frances (Daughterity) Mauzey ('52) Feb. 27, 2025
Gale O. Jones ('53) Sept. 1, 2025
Martha Jane (Yarbrough) Long ('54) Oct. 31, 2025
Bess Rose (Appling) Mercer ('54) Dec. 31, 2025
Ben Eugene Pitney ('55, '62) May 22, 2025
Fred Joseph Rock ('55) Aug. 26, 2025
Charles Davis Acuff Sr. ('56, '61) June 28, 2025
Anelle "Ann" (Hinds) Barker ('56) Sept. 1, 2025
John Dye Barker Jr. ('56) Sept. 23, 2025
Margaret Anne (Meacham) DeVito ('56) June 9, 2025
Anna "Ann" Isabelle (Roberts) Willcutt ('56, '63)
Feb. 11, 2026
Thomas "Tom" Zay Donovan ('57) Feb. 21, 2026
James "Jim" Monroe Harding ('57) May 10, 2021
Doyle Edwin Hull ('57) May 28, 2025
Harold "Sonny" Calvert Morehead ('57, '62) Feb. 19, 2026
Orville "Buck" Wayne Buckingham ('58) Feb. 28, 2026
Marjorie "Marge" (Gordy) Colgan ('58) April 25, 2025
Rodney M. Rogers ('58) May 20, 2025
Laura Elizabeth (Swisher) Srnka ('58) Jan. 11, 2026
Jack R. Hammock ('59) March 29, 2026
Kenneth "Ken" Evon Rhodes ('59) Nov. 16, 2025
Ruth Isabell (Howell) Rucci ('59) April 20, 2023
Carol Jean (Jenkins) Stephens ('59) July 15, 2025
Donald "Don" L. Swayze ('59) Nov. 14, 2025

1960s

Mary Anna (Billups) Andrews ('60, '77) July 18, 2025
Jimmy "Jim" Wayne Davenport ('60, '68) March 12, 2026
James Luther Evans ('60, '63) Dec. 28, 2025
William "Bill" Joseph Feehan ('60) Jan. 15, 2026
Claire "Babe" A. Fritz ('60) May 13, 2025
Juanita "Johnnie" (Britton) Gilpin ('60, '64) Dec. 14, 2017
Phyllis Jean (Osborn) Kalin ('60) Jan. 5, 2026
James "Jim" Alexander Keller Jr. ('60) March 19, 2026
James "Jim" Phillip McClellan ('60) June 27, 2025
J. Gordon Pasley ('60) March 5, 2026
Elmer "E.G." Gene Squires ('60, '61) June 15, 2025

Bonnie Jean (Lansdown) Blattner ('61) July 9, 2025
Gary Joe Booher ('61, '66) Feb. 7, 2026
Jane Ellen Byrd ('61) May 17, 2025
Jane Louise (Lawing) Greer ('61) Aug. 27, 2025
Mary Sue (Shuck) Mudd ('61) Nov. 11, 2025
Allen "Bud" George O'Dell ('61) April 14, 2026
Larry Leo Overturf ('61, '63) Nov. 28, 2025
Harry "H.A." Walmsley ('61, '62) Aug. 2, 2025
Allen Richard Church ('62, '68) Dec. 30, 2025
Kenneth "Mike" Michael Evans ('62) Jan. 27, 2026
George Raymond Galvin ('62) Feb. 13, 2026
Judith "Judy" Ann (Waffler) Hart ('62) Dec. 20, 2025
James "Ed" Edsel Judd ('62) Jan. 11, 2026
Vicki "Karen" (Richards) Miller ('62) Feb. 2, 2022
Larry John Raid ('62) Jan. 9, 2026
Gordon D. Anderson ('63) Oct. 21, 2025
Larry Dale Crim ('63, '70, '76) Dec. 7, 2025
Larry E. Easterday ('63, '65) March 11, 2026
Judith "Judie" Melinda (Simpson) Ellis ('63) Feb. 5, 2026
Larry Gene Jackson ('63) Dec. 17, 2025
Sandra Jean (Hays) Papendick ('63) June 27, 2025
Linda Ann (Ciska) Priest ('63) June 12, 2025
Jennifer "Jenny" Sue (Wells) Secker ('63) March 24, 2026
Thomas Richard Sommerkamp ('63, '68) April 20, 2026
Elaine Ruth (Walker) Clair ('64) Sept. 6, 2025
Larry Eugene Collins ('64, '65) Dec. 22, 2025
Donna "Jeanie" Jean (Triplett) Daniel ('64) Dec. 27, 2020
Alice "Jeanette" (Wester) Johnson ('64) Aug. 31, 2025
Jerry Morris Kelley ('64) Oct. 4, 2025
Walter Junior Schroeder ('64, '65) Aug. 27, 2025
Robert "Bob" Franklin Snell ('64) Oct. 1, 2025
Karen Ruth (Jacobs) Strang ('64) Aug. 14, 2025
Carolyn Sue (Hanna) Wilson ('64) Jan. 23, 2026
Jack Bain ('65) Nov. 8, 2025
"Startle" Don Barnes ('65, '66) Sept. 18, 2025
Brenda Lynne Bell ('65) Sept. 18, 2025
Barbara Ann Dunham ('65) Jan. 12, 2026
Marshall "Wayne" Eckhardt ('65) April 5, 2018
Joseph Bernard Galkowski ('65) May 9, 2025
Janet "Jan" Agnes Bertha (Printy) Kennedy ('65, '67)
July 22, 2025
Janet E. (Dutemple) Lamser ('65) Oct. 6, 2025
Donald Ace Morgan ('65) Sept. 13, 2025
Joseph "Joe" Ragona Jr. ('65, '68) March 21, 2026
Idell L. (Sandford) Thompson ('65) July 15, 2024
Tommy Joe Chenoweth ('66, '85) Nov. 2, 2025
Loran K. Hein ('66) May 29, 2025
Cherie Ann (Baugh) Hopson ('66) July 6, 2025
Larry Dean Hyde ('66) Feb. 8, 2026
Betty Jean (Richardson) Judd ('66) March 20, 2022
Georgia Ruth (Hershey) Lenderman ('66) Nov. 24, 2024
Kenneth "Ken" Henry Nelson ('66) Dec. 18, 2025

This section includes individuals known to have passed away and reported to the University since May 1, 2025. To report the passing of alumni and friends, contact the Office of Advancement at (800) 452-6678, bulldogforever@truman.edu or by mail at Office of Advancement, Truman State University, 100 E. Normal Ave., Kirksville, MO 63501-4221.

1970s

David Douglas Ridge ('66) Nov. 13, 2025
 Ronald "Ron" E. Rush ('66) June 4, 2025
 Linda L. (Rust) Walsh ('66) April 8, 2026
 Judy (Harris) Willingham ('66) Jan. 18, 2026
 Mary Elaine (Osterfoss) Barnard ('67)
 Oct. 10, 2025
 Junior "Zeke" Berlone Beranek ('67)
 June 8, 2025
 David Lee Corrick ('67, '72) July 11, 2025
 Jim "Jimmie" Dale Davis ('67) Aug. 12, 2025
 Zelwin "Zel" B. Eaton ('67, '69) July 7, 2025
 Robert B. Frost ('67) July 18, 2025
 Harold "Harry" H. Gieselman ('67)
 March 10, 2026
 Gerald Everett Hatch ('67) Aug. 22, 2025
 Nelson Edward Hewgley ('67, '70)
 Feb. 24, 2026
 Gary Wendell Kapfer ('67) June 8, 2025
 Janet "Jan" Sue (Flesch) Libby ('67)
 Jan. 30, 2026
 Nancy Ann (Curtis) Lyon ('67) Nov. 28, 2025
 Elaine Lucille Tolle ('67) Feb. 10, 2026
 Robert "Bob" Augustus Wells ('67, '68, '87)
 Oct. 5, 2025
 Michael Lee Bennett ('68) Sept. 2, 2025
 Edgar "Ed" Lee Berry ('68) Nov. 3, 2025
 Shirley Ann (Swank) Bode ('68) June 19, 2025
 Michael Lee Holder ('68) Dec. 28, 2025
 Larry Kenneth Holman ('68) Dec. 9, 2025
 Larry Robert Hoschek ('68) Dec. 12, 2025
 Gerald "Jay" Browning Lohman Jr. ('68)
 Oct. 30, 2025
 Paul William Middeke ('68) Jan. 19, 2026
 James "Jim" Phalen ('68) Jan. 3, 2026
 Judith "Judy" Ann Shaffer ('68) July 6, 2025
 David Anthony Short ('68) June 15, 2025
 Martha "Sally" Fay Staton ('68) June 10, 2025
 David Arthur Thomas ('68, '74) April 30, 2025
 Dennis "Denny" Eugene Wynn ('68)
 July 15, 2025
 Lee Mertad Adams ('69) Sept. 3, 2025
 Wayne Paul Donnelly ('69, '72) April 26, 2025
 Diana Lynne (Gronewold) Hamilton ('69, '70)
 March 3, 2026
 Kenneth Lee Hoff ('69) Dec. 10, 2025
 Alice "Sherry" Cheryl McNeil ('69)
 July 30, 2025
 Linda Lee (Montgomery) Myers ('69)
 Aug. 23, 2025
 Nancy Elaine (Dykstra) Russell ('69)
 April 3, 2026
 Ron Selkirk ('69) Sept. 19, 2025
 Carole Joan (Clermont) Stookey ('69)
 June 17, 2024
 Jerry O'Dell Sylvara ('69, '70) Oct. 1, 2025

Sheryl Diane (Belden) Bewyer ('70)
 Nov. 27, 2025
 James "Jim" Ralph Brouwer ('70) Oct. 10, 2025
 Steven Brent Coram ('70) March 16, 2026
 Audrey "Marie" (Hanna) Dyer ('70)
 March 23, 2026
 Janice M. (Donald) Gentile ('70, '71)
 Aug. 25, 2025
 George William Koontz ('70) Aug. 12, 2025
 Patricia "Patty Jo" Joan (Lightbody) Long
 ('70) July 8, 2025
 James "Jim" Edward Lorence ('70)
 Nov. 20, 2025
 Ronald Curtis Mahannah ('70) March 27, 2026
 Larry Thomas McGlaughlin ('70, '72)
 April 3, 2026
 Cheryl Lynn (Kirtley) Miller ('70, '72)
 Feb. 17, 2026
 Cyrus "Cy" E. Robinson ('70) Feb. 21, 2026
 Wayne Leon Veach Jr. ('70) May 23, 2025
 Max Eugene Argo ('71) Jan. 25, 2026
 Alan Clyde Becker ('71) March 31, 2025
 William "Bill" R. Beucke ('71) Aug. 26, 2024
 Charles Urban Brown Jr. ('71) Dec. 17, 2025
 Charles "Skip" Lee Eikleberry ('71) Oct. 7, 2025
 Howard "Neal" Hoyt ('71) March 15, 2026
 Daniel "Dan" H. Kinsinger ('71) June 6, 2025
 Robert Michael Levy ('71, '74) April 13, 2026
 Gale Darlene (Huffman) McKiddy ('71, '72)
 Dec. 15, 2025
 Charlotte Ann (Killen) Nelson ('71) April 8, 2026
 Michael Byron Pemberton ('71) Nov. 7, 2025
 James "Jim" Rostello ('71, '72) Aug. 23, 2025
 Gloria Rae (Seitsinger) Spellman ('71)
 Feb. 17, 2026
 John Henry Suell ('71) Dec. 24, 2025
 Carolyn Lee (Oetken) Terrell ('71) Jan. 3, 2026
 Gregory "Greg" Roy Tucker ('71)
 March 20, 2024
 Ronald "Ron" R. Andachter ('72) Nov. 30, 2025
 Daniel Paul Fako ('72) Sept. 4, 2025
 Kenneth "Ken" Lee Marlin ('72) July 30, 2025
 James Wayne McGinness ('72) July 10, 2025
 Mary L. (Thompson) Perdue ('72) Feb. 8, 2026
 John Terrence Selby ('72) March 2, 2026
 Danny "Dan" Joe Springer ('72) Sept. 5, 2025
 Gary Wilbur Trimble ('72) Jan. 28, 2026
 Lloyd Dean Warner ('72) July 28, 2025
 Rick "Ricky" Lee Elkin ('73) April 26, 2025
 Susan "Sue" Lynn Scarff Fogle ('73)
 April 25, 2025

Margaret Mary (Weber) Gates ('73, '77)
 Nov. 14, 2025
 Marilyn Joyce (Joiner) Koehler ('73, '78, '84)
 March 20, 2024
 Fred Earl Kooi ('73) March 2, 2026
 William David Myers ('73) Jan. 26, 2026
 Thomas David Stanek ('73) Nov. 6, 2025
 Rowena Carol (Wiggins) Zepp ('73)
 Dec. 22, 2025
 Richard "Rick" James Ahn ('74) Dec. 23, 2025
 John Godlove ('74) May 1, 2025
 Janet "Christy" (Head) Gray ('74) Dec. 14, 2025
 Julia Ann Haley Hargus ('74) Sept. 4, 2025
 Richard "Dick" E. Hawk ('74) March 23, 2026
 Katy (Hendrickson) Hutton ('74) Nov. 30, 2025
 Dennis Wayne Proctor ('74) May 17, 2025
 James "Jim" O. Wigger ('74) Nov. 11, 2025
 Cherilyn "Cheri" Ruth (Hickerson) Becker ('75)
 Oct. 15, 2024
 Terrance "Terry" Lynn Benson ('75)
 Nov. 15, 2025
 Leslie "Les" Bernard Bruning ('75)
 June 17, 2025
 Thomas Kent Buckman ('75) March 27, 2024
 Mark Anthony Fless ('75) Nov. 24, 2015
 Terry John Garlock ('75, '76, '79) Aug. 7, 2025
 Alan Leroy Koehn ('75) Dec. 24, 2010
 Lee Ann (Powell) McCombs ('75) Aug. 6, 2025
 Robert Lee Moritz ('75) April 2026
 Michael Lynn Prather ('75) March 30, 2019
 Robert "Slick" William Schlichter ('75)
 April 12, 2025
 Joyce Dean (Scurlock) Shelby ('75, '85)
 Dec. 4, 2025
 Jorgen "Ski" Enok Skjeveland ('75, '83)
 April 6, 2026
 Herbert "Herb" Lee Stanley Jr. ('75)
 June 22, 2025
 Mary Beth (Henderson) Stanley ('75)
 Dec. 14, 2019
 Loretta "June" Stark ('75) March 24, 2026
 David Albert Volesky ('75) March 15, 2020
 Otis Leon Williams Jr. ('75) May 13, 2014
 Lawrence Donald French ('76) Jan. 26, 2026
 Thomas "Tom" Lee Gillespie ('76) Sept. 7, 2025
 Patricia "Patty" Ann (Wood) Langdon ('76)
 May 3, 2021
 Terrence Edward McNally ('76) Dec. 9, 2025
 Keith A. Pogemiller ('76) May 31, 2025
 Ralph Henry Burdett ('77) Oct. 4, 2025
 George "Greg" Gregory Chase ('77)
 July 12, 2025
 Janis Dee (Guthrie) Ford ('77) May 11, 2025
 Mark Philip Hazlewood ('77) March 22, 2026
 Douglas C. Porter ('77) Feb. 10, 2026

Marc William Romine ('77, '80) April 9, 2025
 Don Craig Sager ('77) May 5, 2025
 James Marion Scudder ('77) Sept. 23, 2025
 William "Dennis" Sidwell ('77) Dec. 25, 2025
 David Paul Bahr ('78) Sep. 27, 2023
 Daniel Lynn Gillespie ('78) Sept. 13, 2025
 Barbara Elizabeth (Burghoff) Graham ('78)
 May 24, 2025
 Bruce Alan Hall ('78) July 28, 2025
 Michael David Pence ('78) March 19, 2022
 James "Jim" Cline Perry ('78) Sept. 3, 2025
 Robert "Bob" Wayne Perry ('78) July 30, 2025
 Bernadette Ann Scherder ('78, '81)
 Aug. 9, 2023
 Gerald "Jerry" Alan Moenster ('79, '83)
 Oct. 11, 2025
 Richard "Dick" Francis Radel ('79) Aug. 4, 2022
 William "Willy" Stout Richmond ('79)
 Dec. 18, 2025

1980s

Bryan Lewis Baum ('80) May 29, 2025
 Jeffrey "Jeff" Mark Brawner ('80) Nov. 3, 2025
 Carol Jean (Fowler) Dage ('80, '82)
 Sept. 20, 2025
 David Joe Fleak ('80) Feb. 24, 2026
 Elaine Susan Hanna ('80) June 14, 2025
 Helen Ruth (Foster) Harder ('80) Jan. 17, 2026
 Thomas Francis McGuire ('80) Aug. 29, 2025
 Martha Douglas Rowe ('80) Dec. 5, 2025
 James "Jim" Ray Young ('80) March 12, 2026
 Francis "Patrick" Decker ('81) Feb. 24, 2025
 Suzanne "Terry" (Steinlage) Ekland ('81)
 April 5, 2026
 Jacqueline "Jackie" Kay Sloan ('81)
 March 10, 2026
 Shari Lynne (Mitts) Bibbs ('82) Sept. 8, 2025
 Anne (Waugh) Brown ('82) Sept. 22, 2025
 John Guy Cochrane ('82) March 29, 2026
 Bruce Elroy Lindberg ('82) June 18, 2025
 George Bernard Peters ('82) May 13, 2025
 William "Bill" Edward Rees ('82) May 26, 2025
 Kelly James Royse-Keefe ('82) July 28, 2025
 Vicki Ann (Christensen) Schlievert ('82)
 Dec. 9, 2025
 Victoria "Vicki" Catherine (Mc Parlane)
 Szeremeta ('82) Jan. 9, 2025
 Jacquelyn "Jackie" (Steers) Baugher ('83)
 Dec. 22, 2025
 Phyllis Ann (Parrish) Mallett ('83) Nov. 25, 2025
 Julia Ann (Sparks) Riley ('83) Dec. 28, 2015
 Carol Marie (Owings) Anfinson ('84, '87)
 Nov. 26, 2025
 Marsha Ann (Gerstenschlager) Wiggins ('84)
 July 14, 2025
 Patsy Lee (Hummel) Booth ('85) May 8, 2023
 Angela "Angie" Lee Colbert-Martin ('85)
 Jan. 20, 2026

Ronald "Ron" Jeffrey Collins ('85) Nov. 7, 2025
 Keith O. Dorenkamper ('85) Dec. 30, 2025
 Steven Edward Mosinski ('85) Aug. 1, 2025
 Jayne Evalani (Blackstad) Spangler ('85)
 Aug. 20, 2025
 Milous Louis Meadows ('86) Nov. 12, 2025
 Jacob "Ronnie" Ronald Peterson ('86)
 March 5, 2026
 Michael "Mike" Glen Steffensmeier ('86)
 June 5, 2025
 Anita Rose Veasley ('86) March 7, 2025
 Raelene G. (Casatta) Derrieux ('87)
 May 26, 2025
 Denise C. (Vineyard) Poland ('87)
 Jan. 14, 2026
 Lenny J. Kness ('88) July 13, 2025
 Max Albert Reinig ('88) April 14, 2026

1990s

Ruth Helen (Schaefer) Grimwood ('90)
 June 12, 2025
 Roger Jennings Hawkins ('92) June 30, 2025
 Leisel Jackle Emry ('93) March 28, 2026
 Kenneth "Ken" Michael Meier-Kraus ('93)
 May 21, 2025
 Lori Ann (Koch) Shook ('93) July 21, 2025
 Johann Arnason ('94) Oct. 27, 2025
 Kerry M. (Clark) Dobereiner ('94) July 22, 2025
 Rachel Elizabeth (Davidson) Puckett ('94)
 May 7, 2025
 Carleta Pauline (Bunch) Hawkins ('95)
 Aug. 13, 2025
 Christopher "Chris" John Peters ('95)
 April 3, 2026
 Jenifer Anne Ponder ('96) April 30, 2025
 Andrew J. Revell ('96) June 19, 2025

2000s

Matthew Thomas Doyle ('00, '02)
 Jan. 17, 2026
 Shawn Randall Slick ('00) Sept. 16, 2025
 Meghan Leann Goodwin ('05) Sept. 18, 2025
 Alicia Jean "A.J." Barks ('06) Dec. 20, 2025
 Stacy Liane Peter ('06, '08) March 1, 2026
 Matthew "Matt" Alan Siemer ('06)
 Dec. 13, 2025
 Jessica "Jessi Mausi" Anne Chenault ('07)
 Feb. 2, 2026
 Julia "Julie" Kathleen O'Connor ('07)
 Jan. 30, 2026

2010s

Amber Nicole Martin ('12) Jan. 16, 2026

FRIENDS

Chester "Gordon" Bell May 17, 2024
 David Anderson Blanton III May 13, 2025
 Barbara Beth (White) Chambers Oct. 21, 2025
 James "Jim" F. Conway Nov. 25, 2025
 William "Bill" Horace Crandall Jr.
 June 30, 2024
 Timothy Duperron Feb. 17, 2023
 Jimmy "J. Dean" Dean Fitzpatrick Nov. 3, 2025
 Charles R. Giovannini May 9, 2025
 Kenneth "Kenny" Dee Jackson Feb. 15, 2023
 Belle A. Knight Oct. 16, 2022
 Samuel Lewis Kraus Dec. 10, 2024
 Russell "Russ" Frank Marshall Dec. 29, 2025
 Richard "Dick" Sims Pryor Sept. 1, 2024
 Michael John Ready July 29, 2024
 Paulie Andrew Schmitz Sept. 12, 2022
 Jacquelyn Virginia Settlege Oct. 29, 2025
 Jerree A. Stroh Dec. 24, 2023

FACULTY AND STAFF

Jane Ellen Byrd ('61) May 17, 2025
 Veronica Catherine Buben Aug. 2, 2025
 John Guy Cochrane ('82) March 29, 2026
 Jacqueline Collett July 22, 2025
 Roberta Mary DeStefano Sept. 10, 2025
 Catherine "Cathy" J. (Bratek) Dvorak
 May 11, 2025
 Zelwin "Zel" B. Eaton ('67, '69) July 7, 2025
 Marilyn Gladys (Barber) Gibbons Jan. 5, 2026
 Glen Edgar Giboney Oct. 7, 2025
 Steven H. Klein April 22, 2026
 Ronald Allen Knight Sr. May 3, 2025
 Patrick Lecaque Oct. 11, 2025
 Clayton Alan Marshall Feb. 26, 2023
 Jane Alston Maxwell Aug. 5, 2025
 Bertha "Joyce" (Erwin) McVay Nov. 28, 2025
 Gerald Ray McVay July 7, 2025
 Wilma Addlene (Johnson) Newman
 April 26, 2023
 Robert "Bob" L. Perry March 17, 2026
 Ben Eugene Pitney ('55, '62) May 22, 2025
 Pamela "Pam" Jo (Graber) Ryan Aug. 17, 2025
 James "Jim" Bertrand Schneider Jr.
 Nov. 25, 2025
 Dorothy Helen (King) Selby March 2, 2026
 Linda Carol (Millsap) Shada May 5, 2025
 Lori Ann (Koch) Shook ('93) July 21, 2025
 Harry "H.A." Walmsley ('61, '62) Aug. 2, 2025
 Gene Carroll Wunder Sept. 25, 2025



The Truman Visit Experiences

Alumni often talk about how they fell in love with Truman when they visited the campus in person. There are many different ways for a prospective student to experience a personalized in-person campus visit.



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GROUP VISIT

If you are a counselor, teacher or college-prep group interested in bringing your students to visit campus, this is a great option. Group visits are for groups of 5-50 students.

TRUMAN EXPERIENCE WEEKEND

Nov. 6-7, 2026
April 16-17, 2027

This is a two-day weekend visit event for prospective students and their families to create a more personalized schedule and choose from different activities offered during a two-day timeframe.



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McClain Hall 205
100 East Normal Avenue
Kirksville, MO 63501-4221

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SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming Weekend

Oct. 23-24, 2026

Golden Alumni Diploma Ceremony
Dogs of Distinction Awards
Homecoming Parade
Bulldog Forever Tailgate
Homecoming Football Game ... and more!

Check for updates to the schedule
at truman.edu/homecoming.

