

# Truman Launches Public Phase of \$40 Million “Pursue the Future” Campaign at Homecoming



Truman State University has publicly announced a \$40 million comprehensive fundraising campaign entitled “Pursue the Future.” The public launch was initiated by President Troy D. Paino at a press conference and special ceremony during Homecoming 2015 festivities.

“Private gift support from alumni and friends is an important component of our plan to protect Truman’s distinctive qualities,” Paino said. “With diminished funding for higher education at the state level and nationwide, this campaign will channel additional resources to key areas such as student scholarships and academic program support.”

The campaign has four priorities – scholarships, academic program and faculty support, athletics and

unrestricted giving through the Truman Fund for Excellence.

Need-based and merit scholarships represent \$25 million of the campaign’s overall goal. “Central to Truman’s mission is providing deserving students from all social backgrounds the access to a high-quality liberal arts experience,” Paino said. A goal of \$10 million has been established for academic programs and faculty support, designed to help offset the status quo or reductions within the operating budgets of schools and departments across campus due to lingering budgetary pressure.

A target of \$2.5 million has been set to improve facilities, programs and scholarships for intercollegiate athletics. The campaign’s final priority

is \$2.5 million for unrestricted giving, allowing resources to be directed to greatest need areas.

Truman began the advanced gifts or “quiet phase” of the five-year campaign on July 1, 2013, and has been generating cash, multi-year pledges and deferred gift commitments toward the goal. To date, the campaign has received \$24.9 million in gift commitments from 10,640 donors. So far, a total of 71 new funds have been established, including 45 scholarship funds. More than \$16 million has been raised for student scholarships.

The public phase is designed to seek gift support from all Truman constituents to complete the campaign in a successful fashion. Regional campaigns will be established in 10 strategic markets across the country where the University has a higher concentration of alumni. A volunteer chair and campaign committee will guide efforts in those areas, including a campaign kickoff event followed by efforts to secure commitments from alumni and friends. More than 100 volunteers are expected to assist in the regional campaigns.

The campaign is scheduled to conclude in June 2018.

## A Message from the Campaign Chair Sharron Quisenberry...



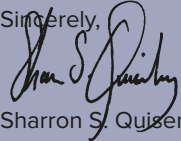
Welcome to the public phase of the “Pursue the Future” campaign on behalf of the Steering Committee!

The five-year \$40 million “Pursue the Future” campaign began two years ago as a silent phase activity designed to secure advance commitments with select alumni and friends. More than 175 personal visits were held and resulted in nearly \$25 million raised in cash, multi-year pledges and deferred gifts. These funds have been dedicated to student scholarships, academic programs, faculty enhancement, athletics, and university improvement projects.

Generating over 60% of our goal allows us to now open the campaign to our alumni and friends in a public phase over the next three years. An equally successful public phase will better position Truman to continue exceptional, high quality, and value-added educational opportunities for students.

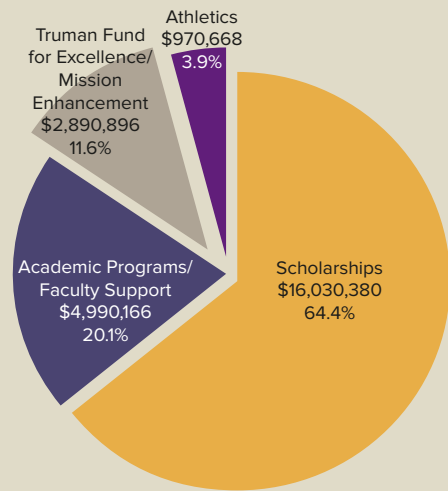
The public announcement at Homecoming also featured training sessions for more than 80 volunteers who will be assisting in the public phase of this campaign. Their willingness to support the campaign is very much appreciated and pivotal because a successful public phase will ensure Truman’s legacy of quality education.

Again, the “Pursue the Future” campaign Steering Committee welcomes the participation of alumni and friends. Let’s work together for a successful public phase campaign to ensure “our University” continues to build a stronger foundation of exceptional education opportunities for future generations of students.

Sincerely,  
  
 Sharron S. Quisenberry, PhD

## Total Support to “Pursue the Future” by Priorities AS OF 9-30-15

**\$24,882,110**



## Regional Campaign Schedule

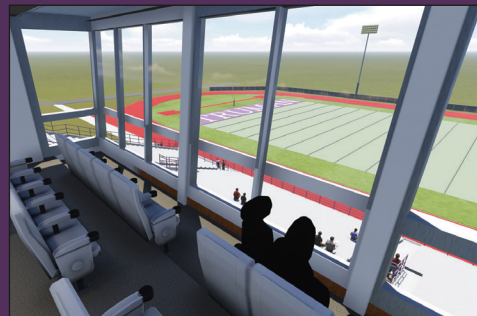
Arizona	February 2016
Mid-Atlantic	April 2016
Dallas	May 2016
Kansas City	August 2016
Chicago	November 2016
Iowa	February 2017
Mid-Missouri	April 2017
St. Louis	June 2017
Denver	September 2017
Northeast Missouri	November 2017

## Stokes Stadium Renovation Project Moving Forward

Progress continues in the quest to upgrade facilities at Stokes Stadium at Truman State University.

A trio of improvement projects is planned for the 2018 year, including the construction of a new press box, the replacement of field turf and resurfacing of the Kenneth Gardner Track as Truman is set to host the Great Lakes Valley Conference Outdoor Track and Field championships in the spring of 2019.

“These enhancements will significantly improve the quality of experience for our



student athletes, our fans, and the other student groups who use the facilities at Stokes Stadium,” said Jerry Wollmering, Director of Athletics.

The improvements, estimated to cost approximately \$2.5 million, will be financed from three sources. They include private contributions from alumni and friends,

university funds, and designated resources from the student athletic fee; a student-imposed fee initiated several years ago designed to improve athletic facilities.

The press box at Stokes Stadium was constructed in 1962 with virtually no improvement to the facility over the past 50 years. The new facility will enhance the football game day needs of the media, game volunteers, and coaches, and offer entertainment space for special guests.

Several special gifts have been received to support the press box project, including leadership commitments from Mark and Jill Schell, Sodexo, Ken and Deborah Read, Mark McLeod, River City Construction, Pete Grathwohl, Tom Roberts, Gregg and Jackie Nesbitt, Lou Coco and Brian McGovern.

# Two Influential Foundation Funds Become Permanent Endowments

A life that fully embraces the ideals of service, philanthropy and leadership can create remarkable and lasting results. **Ron and Elsie Gaber** have leveraged the synergistic effect of this powerful trinity in their own lives and through their practice have created a meaningful and lasting imprint on Truman. Their documentation of a planned gift through their estate ensures significant future support for The Gaber Achievement Award and The Gaber Solar Clock Garden.

The Gaber Achievement Award was established by staff, students and friends of the Residence Life Department in 1988 in recognition of Ron who was director of Residence Life at Truman from 1976 to 1988, and his wife, Elsie. Ron was a major influence in supporting, encouraging and recognizing student involvement in the residence halls. He was instrumental in providing leadership opportunities for residence hall students through the Residence Hall Association, individual hall government and student volunteerism. The achievement award recognizes volunteerism, commitment, quality and involvement with peers.

The creation of The Gaber Solar Clock Garden was funded by a generous gift



from Elsie and Ron in June 2005. Their purpose for funding the garden was to recognize outstanding science faculty and residence life staff that serve students in a compassionate and nurturing manner. Furthermore, it was their intention that students, faculty and staff would engage in outdoor learning opportunities through the care and nurturing of the garden.

The garden fulfills Elsie and Ron's intentions and serves as a wonderful resource for the Truman community. Botany courses explore the garden's diversity, which includes representatives from many plant families. Visiting pollinators make good study subjects for students

of animal behavior, ecology and insect biology. It also provides inspiration for nature writers, photographers, and artists from across campus. The garden is maintained by student gardeners who are able to work outdoors and explore their interest in plants. Through their work many have learned new skills and discovered a passion for gardening.

This garden is located on the south end of Magruder Hall and is a small part of the nationwide effort to provide patches of pollinator-friendly natural spaces scattered throughout the country. Elsie and Ron established a permanent endowment in 2015 to provide an ongoing source of revenue for the garden's care and maintenance.

Ron and Elsie's planned gift commitment to Truman through the Pursue the Future campaign ensures that benefits to students, faculty and staff will continue for generations to come.

## Students Connect with Alumni Chicago Style!

A dozen Truman students had a recent opportunity to network and explore various careers by participating in a two-day "Truman Connect – Chicago" program.

Sponsored by 1992 alumnus and TSU Foundation Board member John Thompson, the program featured a collection of Truman alumni and other professionals who interacted with students through a series of meetings, panel discussions and seminars. The event was designed to introduce students to career

options, understand organizations and professional roles and networking and make connections.

Firms represented included Aon Hewitt, Morningstar, Baker Tilley, Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management, Oppenheimer, U.S. Bank, New York Life, Northern Trust, and the YMCA.

"We started Truman Connect Chicago to give students the opportunity to network in a supportive environment and hear a variety of Chicago-area professionals talk about their career journeys," said John Thompson, who chairs Truman's investment committee of the Foundation Board.

"The program provides students the ability to visualize life and work after graduation and the opportunities to do so in a dynamic city like Chicago. Both students and alumni have a great time, and the program reinforces the fact that Truman has a vast pool of diverse talent across the alumni and student community."

Students also had the opportunity to attend a comedy club, experience a Chicago pizza dinner and explore the Magnificent Mile. The event culminated with a Chicago Chapter alumni event held at the Mid-America Club atop the Aon Center which was attended by 45 alumni and friends.



# Barner Establishes School of Business Endowment



**Mark D. Barner** ('81) serves Ascension — the nation's largest nonprofit health system, which is based in St. Louis — as its chief information officer and the chief executive officer of its technology subsidiary: Ascension Information Services. Ascension operates in 23 states and the District of Columbia through more than 130 hospitals and 1,900 other sites of care.

Mark recently established an endowment with Truman for the business school related to excellence in education. This fund will provide critical multi-purpose support to the business school in perpetuity, for scholarships, student activities, departmental program and areas determined of greatest need. It was inspired this fall, when Mark had the chance to visit the campus and see some of the physical changes to Truman and its expansive business school. At that time, he met with Dean Debra Kerby to talk about the state of the business program and tour of Violette Hall.

*"I am passionate about helping people jumpstart their careers, and launch themselves into an industry or field that will help them contribute and make a difference."*

— MARK BARNER

"I am passionate about helping people jumpstart their careers, and launch themselves into an industry or field that will help them contribute and make a difference," says Mark. "Fundamentally, my college education at Truman has served as the foundation for all of the other opportunities that presented themselves to me in the years that followed."

Mark has advocated for Truman since graduating with honors in 1981. A native of central Missouri from the small town of Hartsburg, Mark has held various positions in the computer services industry, including those in state and local government, retail, banking, airline transportation, insurance, and for the last 13 years healthcare.

"I have found my calling in looking at how information technology can support what our caregivers do every day, as we serve the communities in which we operate," says Mark. "And I established this fund to return something back to the school to help others grow into a leader of IT, an accounting genius or whatever else they may aspire to be."

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