

Summer 2022  
Vol. 22, No. 2

# TRUMAN REVIEW

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

## Ready for What's Next

With its student-centered approach, Truman is prepared for the coming changes in higher education.





## I HOPE THIS MESSAGE FINDS YOU WITH DAYS FULL OF SUNNY SKIES!

At Truman we believe that the sun always shines after a storm. From challenges including all aspects of the pandemic, low levels of state funding, an impending demographic cliff for high school seniors and societal divisiveness across a wide range of issues, higher education is experiencing significant storms. While a natural response to significant storms is to hunker down and wait for the storms to pass, Truman has never let storms divert us from successfully achieving our mission.

When you reflect on the great transformation and inflection points in our 155-year history, it is clear that we have used the experiences and lessons learned at the time to effectively position our University for the future. We fully embrace Vivian Greene's philosophy that "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain."

In this issue, you will learn about some of the proactive projects we are pursuing to ensure that not only do we not get bogged down in what permeates the present, but that we find great opportunities to flourish in the years ahead. We are taking the challenges head-on, but our strategies are not short-term or rapid fixes – they are designed to support success in the long term. Progressing, not just surviving, is in our DNA.

It is my strong desire that sunny days are right around the corner for higher education. But as that does not appear to be the case, you can have complete confidence in the fact that Truman will remain undeterred. We are Bulldogs, and bulldogs are tenacious powerhouses with great strength, courage and stability. Bulldogs know how to dance in the rain!

We invite all of you to share your skills and talents and dance with us. Our power to control our destiny is multiplied exponentially when we dance together!

With great Bulldog pride,



Susan L. Thomas  
President

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A proactive strengthening of Truman's student-centered approach is essential for adapting to the massive changes in higher education.

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## Kirk Renovation to Bring Student Support Services Together, Provide Outreach to the Community

### TRUMAN WILL SOON TRANSFORM A CAMPUS LANDMARK TO BRING TOGETHER

many student support services in one location.

With financial assistance from the state of Missouri, Truman will renovate the Kirk Building to house a new Student Success Center. The center will employ a collaborative service model in which individual student service departments do not simply co-locate and deliver their services nearby to one another; but rather, work in coordination to meet students' needs from entry to exit. The Student Success Center will be comprised of: the Career Center; Tutoring Services; the Student Health Center; University Counseling Services; Student Access and Disability Services; the Center for Academic Excellence; the Communication Lab; and the Writing Center.

In addition to housing the Student Success Center, the University will also use the updated facility to provide resources to the community, including workforce development outreach, rural telehealth counseling and academic outreach workshops.

The Sustained Knowledge of Integrated Lifelong Learning Skills (SKILLS) Center will build upon the services of the departments in the Student Success Center, making key services available to the local community. While area K-12 students would have access to tutoring and advising, adult learners might seek skills to assist with career advancement through non-credit workshops on topics such as digital literacy, computer applications and personal development. Truman students will have the opportunity to be trained to lead and support these community learning opportunities.

The SKILLS Center will look to collaborate with relevant community partners including: the city of Kirksville, Adair County and other municipalities and counties in the northeast Missouri region; Kirksville Regional Economic Development, Inc.,



and other regional economic development entities; the Missouri Division of Employment Security; and regional health care and social service providers.

The total estimated cost for the project is approximately \$21 million. State support for the project comes in the form of \$10.5 million through the American Rescue Plan Act that was recommended by Gov. Mike Parson during the State of the State address in January. The University plans to pursue grant funding and private donations to help meet its required portion of the funding.

If funding is approved by the Missouri General Assembly, design for renovation of the building is slated to begin in August 2022 with completion projected by December 2024.

Constructed in 1923, Kirk Building is named in honor of John R. Kirk, an alumnus and the second-longest tenured president in University history. For generations of alumni, it is remembered as the social center of campus since it was the site of games, assemblies and events.

# The Big Event Returns

**HUNDREDS OF TRUMAN STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME** to participate in the first Big Event since 2019.

Through the help of the SERVE Center, students were matched with more than 60 job sites around town. The job sites included simple service acts such as trimming bushes, raking leaves and washing windows for residents of the community.

Junior business major Norah Grojean was excited to finally be able to take part in her first Big Event since arriving at Truman. The 2020 Big Event was canceled due to the pandemic, while the Big Event in 2021 was planned but canceled due to rain.

“My group was put in charge of raking leaves for a household. The family was extremely grateful, kind and even got us donuts to have a little snack break,” Grojean said. “They provided all the materials we needed to do the job and were always there for us if we needed to ask any questions.”

Created in 1982, the Big Event has become one of the largest one-day, student-run service projects hosted nationwide. It allows students to show their appreciation to the surrounding community for their continued support. Since hosting its first Big Event in 2001, Truman has continued to receive positive feedback from the Kirksville community. The SERVE Center often receives many calls from community members on how grateful they are for the services provided by students. Many of them say they had already expressed their gratitude to the students, but wanted to make sure the University was aware of how thankful they are for the help. Some also explain how they are no longer able to complete a lot of the tasks they seek assistance for, and if it were not for the students they would have to make other arrangements.

“My favorite part about participating in the Big Event is that I felt like I was truly making a difference in the lives of others right then and there,” Grojean said. “I loved feeling a part of a community that cares enough to give back to the city that gives so much to Truman and its students.”





# Compost Project Partners with Local Schools to Fight Food Waste

**TRUMAN AND THE KIRKSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE PARTNERING** to reduce food waste and contribute to locally grown produce.

Since January, the Truman Compost Project has worked with students at Ray Miller Elementary to collect food scraps from the school. The materials are used at Truman's University Farm to create finished compost, which in turn is donated back to Ray Miller Elementary for use in the school's Outdoor Garden Classroom. The idea to expand the Truman Compost Project originated with Michael Seipel, chair of the Agricultural Science Department.

"I am passionate about reducing food waste," Seipel said. "I thought that expanding the Truman Compost Project to include Kirksville public schools could help educate the community about the importance of reducing food waste through educating the community's youth about food waste and composting."

The partnership had been in the works since February 2020, but was put on hold at the onset of the pandemic. It was rekindled last fall when Tiffany Miller, the garden educator at Ray Miller Elementary, reached out to the Agricultural Science Department for some finished compost for the school's garden in the fall. Representatives from both schools worked together to

implement the program in January 2022.

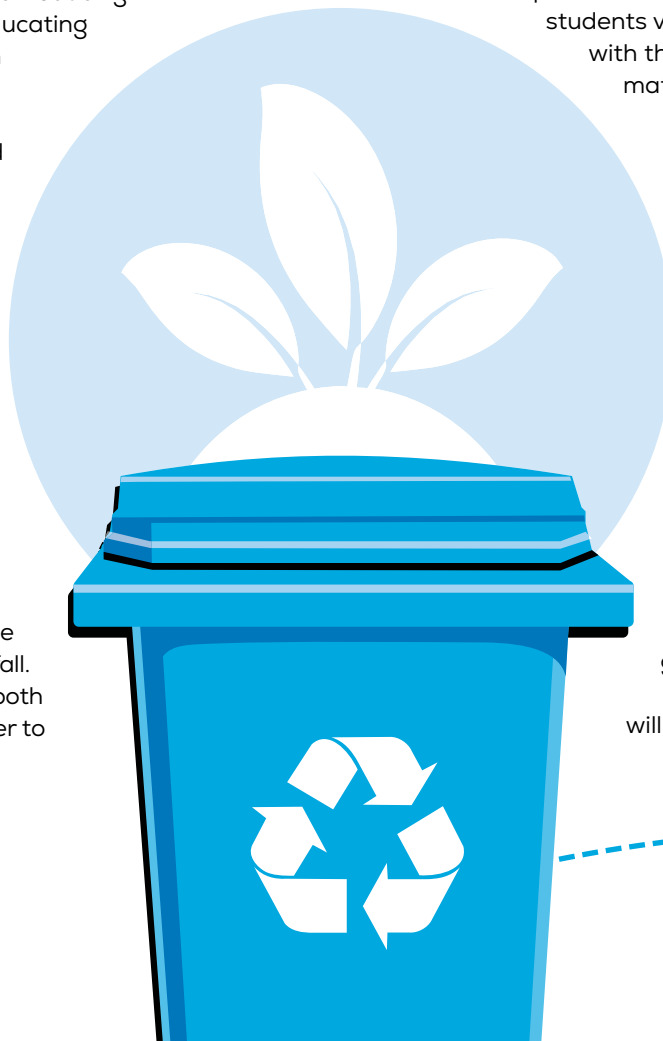
Kelli Hunsicker, the outdoor education coordinator and a fifth grade teacher, hopes participating in the program will show Ray Miller students how they can limit their food waste by reusing it to help nourish new plants and vegetables.

"The best thing about our outdoor education program is that students get a new experience learning to grow their own food," Hunsicker said. "Now that we have added the compost project, they can see the process of reusing our food to break down and make compost that will go back into the garden to grow new food."

At the end of their lunch shift, children at Ray Miller Elementary separate compostable food scraps, napkins and paper towels from non-compostable trash. Twice a week Truman students visit the school to help with the process and pick up materials.

"The students were really excited when Mrs. Tiffany explained the project to them. They couldn't wait to get started," Hunsicker said. "It has been helpful that Truman students have been able to be here during lunch a few days a week to help students sort their lunch trays. Students are always willing to help other students figure out what needs to go where."

Ray Miller Elementary will ultimately use the



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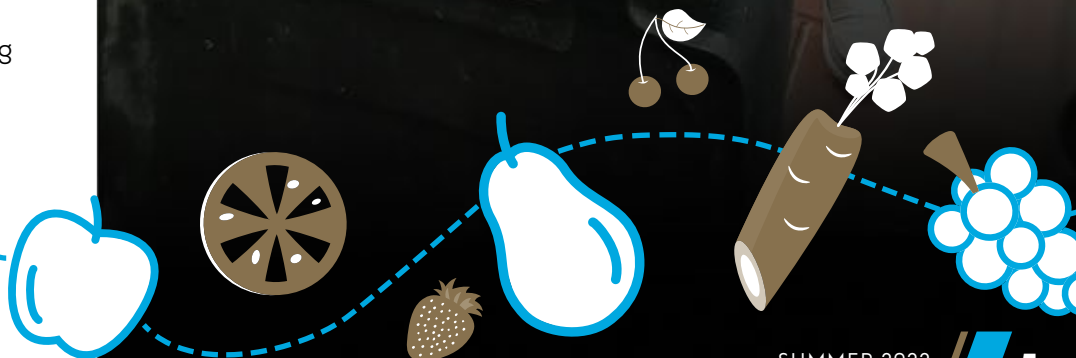
– KELLI HUNSICKER

*outdoor education coordinator  
and fifth grade teacher at  
Ray Miller Elementary School*

finished product in its Outdoor Garden Classroom, which grows different fruits and vegetables for use at the school. The district has a similar program at the primary school that might eventually join the collaboration.

“This is meant to be an ongoing partnership,” Seipel said. “If it is successful, and if the Compost Project has enough student labor and resources, we would like to expand it to other buildings in the Kirksville R-III District.”

Since its inception in 2004, the Truman Compost Project primarily collects food scraps from the campus dining halls and Student Union Building. The project also partners with Rot Riders, a student organization that offers to pick up food scraps from Kirksville residents for composting. A pre-pandemic student research project estimated the Truman Compost Project collected approximately 142,000 pounds of food scraps during the 2018 academic year. More information about the Truman Compost Project, including ways to get involved, can be found at [compost.truman.edu](http://compost.truman.edu).



# Truman Recognized as a Top Producer of Fulbright Students

## TRUMAN WAS ONE OF THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THAT PRODUCED THE MOST 2021-22 Fulbright U.S. students.

Each year the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) announces the top-producing institutions for the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program. The Chronicle of Higher Education publishes the lists annually.

Three students from Truman were named Fulbright finalists. They participated in English Language Teaching Assistantships during the 2021-22 academic year, serving as native-speaker experts in English-language classrooms in their host countries. The students and their host countries were: Karis Chapman, Germany; Ross Jones, Spain; and Taylor Libbert, Andorra.

Truman had seven Fulbright applications for 2021-22. In addition to three finalists, three other students – Peyton Bell, Chase Baker and Nick Puleo – were selected as alternates. This marks the third consecutive year Truman has been among the top master's institutions for producing Fulbright students, and the seventh time in the past 12 years. Truman was the only Missouri school to be recognized on the master's institutions list this year.

"Being a top Fulbright producer is a realization of Truman's vision to develop educated citizens 'through transformative experiences that foster critical thought, daring imagination and empathetic understanding of human experiences at home and around the world,'" said University President Sue Thomas. "It is a strong testament to our students' excellence and the invaluable mentoring of our outstanding faculty."

The Fulbright competition is administered at Truman by Jack Davis, associate professor of German, and Meg Edwards, associate professor of political science.

The Fulbright Program was established more than 75 years ago to increase mutual

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– SUE THOMAS  
*University President*

understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Fulbright is the world's largest and most diverse international educational exchange program.

Since its inception in 1946, more than 400,000 people from all backgrounds – recent university graduates, teachers, scientists and researchers, artists and more – have participated in the Fulbright Program and returned to their home countries with an expanded worldview, a deep appreciation for their host country and its people, and a new network of colleagues and friends.

Fulbright alumni work to make a positive impact on their communities, sectors and the world and have included 40 heads of state or government, 61 Nobel Laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize winners, 76 MacArthur Fellows and countless leaders and changemakers who carry forward the Fulbright mission of enhancing mutual understanding.

Fulbright is active in more than 160 countries worldwide and partners with participating governments, host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States. Many of these organizations also provide direct and indirect support.



# Bulldogs to Compete in Digital Realm

**THIS FALL A NEW TRUMAN TEAM WILL COMPETE UNDER THE BULLDOG BANNER** with the addition of a University sponsored esports team.

A committee consisting of faculty and staff from around campus worked through the academic year, researching, visiting sites and attending webinars in order to determine how Truman esports should look and operate. An esports facility will be housed in Barnett Hall and will come together over the summer months.

Truman esports teams may compete in, but would not be limited to, "League of Legends" and "Rocket League."

"Esports have become very popular among colleges across the country," said Jared Young, director of academic affairs operations. "Schools are using them not only as an extracurricular opportunity, but also as a recruitment tool. There is student demand for an esports team, and we want to be able to provide them that experience."

An esports student survey conducted in the spring semester helped determine some of the initial plans for the esports team. Many details remain to be determined, but approximately 16 students are expected to make up the inaugural team.



**ESPORTS**  
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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– JARED YOUNG  
*director of academic affairs operations*

## New Center Serves Students



**A STUDENT GOVERNMENT PROJECT SEVERAL YEARS IN THE MAKING BECAME A REALITY THIS YEAR** with the opening of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. Located in Baldwin Hall 101, this community space is equipped with books with LGBTQ+ resources, health materials and volunteers. Student Government, SAB and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center advisory board hosted a housewarming party in April to celebrate the center being open.

# CHOOSE WISELY

**Esther Lee** picked Truman because she knew a smaller school would provide more opportunities for growth. She's grateful for the support she has received and plans to pay it forward whenever possible.

ESTHER LEE IS SO INVOLVED ON CAMPUS it's easy to wonder how she finds time for all of her interests. She is the president of the Community of College Entrepreneurs. She previously served as a senior vice president for the co-ed business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi and is currently the organization's diversity coordinator. Even though she is a business administration major, with a concentration in marketing, Lee is a member of the Clarinet Choir and has performed with the Wind Symphony. She's also found time to mentor Kirksville High School students through the TRU-Leaders Next-Gen program.

All that might be overwhelming for some, but Lee came to Truman from Overland Park, Kansas, specifically to get more opportunities, or as she has put it before, "to be a big fish in a small pond." On top of all those extracurricular activities, she's also a full-time student and on track to earn a degree next May in four years. She could have graduated earlier, but chose to stay and make the most of her collegiate career.

"If I could go back, I would advise myself to lessen my course load," she said. "Staying four years allows you to be more involved, make a bigger impact and have a more balanced life. If you take initiative to make the most out of your time at Truman, you won't want it to end."

Along with Lee's generally ambitious nature, some of her drive can be chalked up as a







“The pandemic created a deeper appreciation for connections. As a sense of normalcy started to return, I saw that in all the organizations I was in. Everyone was eager to form meaningful relationships with one another. In addition, I began to push myself to meet as many people as possible to make up for lost time.”

– ESTHER LEE

byproduct of the pandemic. Every year of her college experience has been affected in some way by COVID, which altered many of the events and activities taken for granted by previous classes.

“The pandemic created a deeper appreciation for connections. As a sense of normalcy started to return, I saw that in all the organizations I was in,” she said. “Everyone was eager to form meaningful relationships with one another. In addition, I began to push myself to meet as many people as possible to make up for lost time.”

There was a lot for Lee to make up in her role as president of CCE. At the onset of the pandemic, meetings were moved to Zoom. Membership understandably waned, dropping into the single digits. As pandemic guidelines for organizations eased prior to the 2021-22 school year, Lee worked with members to brainstorm recruitment strategies, including tabling, participating at the activities fair and hosting other events.

“I did not know what to expect for our first in-person meeting in over a year, but the turnout was amazing,” she said. “It was definitely a memorable moment to see so many Truman students eager to get involved on campus and learn more about entrepreneurship.”

It’s fitting Lee heads up a student organization devoted to entrepreneurship. For more than five years she has run her own photography business, Esther Lens, and she took second place in Truman’s business pitch competition, Bulldog B.I.T.E., as a sophomore. Her pitch of Smarter, an automated study partner with voice recognition

capabilities to enhance study time for students, netted her a \$2,000 award.

Lee’s level of involvement could lead some to believe she is a hyper-focused, career-driven student with a clear vision of what she wants for the future. While she will certainly excel in whatever path she chooses, her overall plan is fairly broad and rooted in nobility.

“From a professional standpoint, I hope to be proud of what I do,” she said. “I also hope that I am able to be a mentor to anyone in my field within my company, as well as students at Truman, using my network to help others advance in their career. I hope that in my personal life I continue friendships and connections I formed in college. I also hope that I am able to give back to the Truman community in any way that I can.”

Lee does have one specific goal in mind. In addition to her career, she wants to create a nonprofit to help immigrant business owners by marketing their entrepreneurial endeavors. Both of her parents came to the United States for their education – her father hails from Malaysia, and her mother came to Truman from Taiwan – so supporting immigrants is an issue near to her heart. In fact, in the past year Lee started working as a cultural integration leader helping groups of new international students get acclimated to American culture.

“I know the amount of work my parents put in given the fact that English was their second language,” she said. “Their drive is what motivates me to always do my best and always help others.”





# HERE FOR THE STUDENTS

A great first impression by students led Barbara Kramer to Truman. They are also why she's stayed for more than 20 years.

IT MAKES SENSE BARBARA KRAMER HAS FOUND A HOME AT TRUMAN. A liberal arts institution is the perfect place for a woman of many interests. In addition to spending time with her twin 10-year-olds, she enjoys reading, crocheting, knitting and dancing. Kramer originally had plans of being a "scientist dancer," with the hope working as a researcher while being part of a dance company on the side. Considering she was in a pre-professional ballet program with the Atlanta Ballet throughout high school, the idea is not as novel as it might first sound.





Science eventually won out, with Kramer going on to earn a biochemistry degree from Oberlin College and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Emory University. Although dance may have been put on the back (Bunsen) burner for a time, she eventually found her way to it again. During the pandemic, Kramer installed a barre and dance floor in her basement and started online ballet and tap classes. That ever-present quest for knowledge is at the heart of her teaching philosophy.

"I teach because I love to learn," she said. "I like to work with students to help them discover how to solve problems and how to think critically about the material they're studying."

As a professor of chemistry, Kramer's research interests have always revolved around environmental analysis. Under her guidance, students have examined the concentration of pesticides in soil, water and fish, as well as comparisons of contaminants in urban and rural water supplies. Other projects have explored phytoremediation, where plants can be used to remove heavy metals from soil.

"All of these projects came about in the same way – a student asked a question and I helped them find a way to discover the answer," she said.

The caliber of students and their level of intellectual curiosity are contributing factors in Kramer coming to Truman, even though she never intended to move so far from her Georgia home.

"When I visited to interview, I was blown away by the students," she said. "I had been on several interviews, but this was the first place where students seemed genuinely excited talking about research and classes and felt comfortable interacting with me as a potential faculty member. Something just clicked. I've stayed for the same reason. I really enjoy working with our students and how close of a community we have."

After more than 20 years at the University, Kramer's community has grown to be quite

significant. In addition to introductory and analytical chemistry courses, she also team teaches a series of interdisciplinary STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) seminar courses where students learn about scientific research and plan and implement an invited speaker series.

On top of her course load, Kramer is the director of the STEM Talent Expansion Programs (STEP) Office in the School of Science and Mathematics. A campus fixture since 2005, STEP has served as the home for more than \$6 million in grant funding from the National Science Foundation specifically targeted at increasing success and graduation in STEM fields for Truman students. Currently, the office supports two NSF-funded programs – STEP Scholars and MoLSAMP Scholars.

The STEP Scholars program provides up to four years of need-based scholarships for students pursuing degrees in agriculture science, biochemistry and molecular biology, biology, chemistry and physics. Along with scholarships of up to \$7,500 per year, students participate in academic and professional development activities designed to introduce them to research and communication in the sciences.

MoLSAMP (Missouri Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) is a statewide partnership which aims to double the number of graduates in Missouri in STEM for students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. Participants at Truman are supported by a full-time dedicated academic advisor, tutoring and prioritized access to travel and research opportunities with other schools in the state.

Ironically, the joy of working with talented students can lead to mixed emotions.

"The thing I hate and love most about my job is watching students I've connected with graduate and move on," Kramer said. "Graduation is so bittersweet. I'm so proud of them, but I know I'll miss them."

Graduation does not always signify the end of the road. Kramer remains in touch with many of her former students and enjoys watching them become successful professionals with families of their own. One of her more

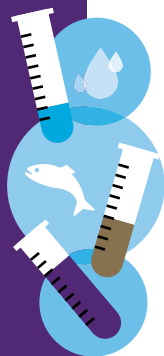
recent hobbies has been sitting in on Zoom Ph.D. defenses of former students.

"It blows me away to watch a student I knew when they were 18 and just starting out at college speak confidently about the work they've done as a graduate student, and I am absolutely honored to be there when they invite me to sit in," Kramer said. "I don't think students know how much it means to us when they tell us what we've meant to them."



**I teach because I love to learn. I like to work with students to help them discover how to solve problems and how to think critically about the material they're studying."**

– **BARBARA KRAMER**  
*professor of chemistry*



smart  
helpful  
caring

# Ready *for* What's Next

# Adaptable

A proactive strengthening of Truman's student-centered approach is essential for adapting to the massive changes in higher education.

With its long and storied history, a lot of words could be used to describe Truman. The students and alumni are often labeled as "smart." It's always easy to throw out "beautiful" to describe the grounds. "Helpful" and "caring" are commonly invoked with regard to the faculty. Perhaps an underappreciated word to describe the University is "adaptable." From its evolution as a normal school, to a regional teachers' college and now a statewide liberal arts and sciences university, Truman has always adapted to meet the needs of the students it serves.

Higher education is in the midst of a monumental change. Circumstances from the last several years have forced colleges and universities around the country to alter their plans as fewer students are opting to attend. An article published by Inside Higher Ed earlier this year reported fall 2020 saw 20.7% fewer students enroll in college directly from high school compared to 2019, and total undergraduate enrollment declined 6.6% from fall 2019 to fall 2021. While the pandemic played a roll, this was part of a decade-long enrollment

decline of 13%. More than 30 states have seen at least one closure or merger of institutions since 2016, and with the number of high school graduates projected to decrease from 2027 to 2037, more change is in store. Fortunately for Truman, years of proper planning have the school on remarkable financial footing, and the foresight of administrators and faculty members in regard to curriculum means the University is ready to meet the challenges ahead.

"Enrollment challenges are real, but they will not be solved solely by amplifying recruitment efforts," said University President Sue Thomas.

**"An enhanced focus on retention, completion, student success and strengthening our value proposition are essential to increase our appeal to tomorrow's students.** Truman

is currently implementing a number of new initiatives in these areas to bolster our appeal."



## Don't Break the Bank

Among the top-of-mind factors for many students and families when making their college choice is price. Like other industries, fixed costs in higher education have increased faster than most family incomes, pushing the price of a degree higher and higher and causing decisions to be all the more strategic. **Truman has long been known for its affordability, a characteristic that will continue to bode well in the coming years.**

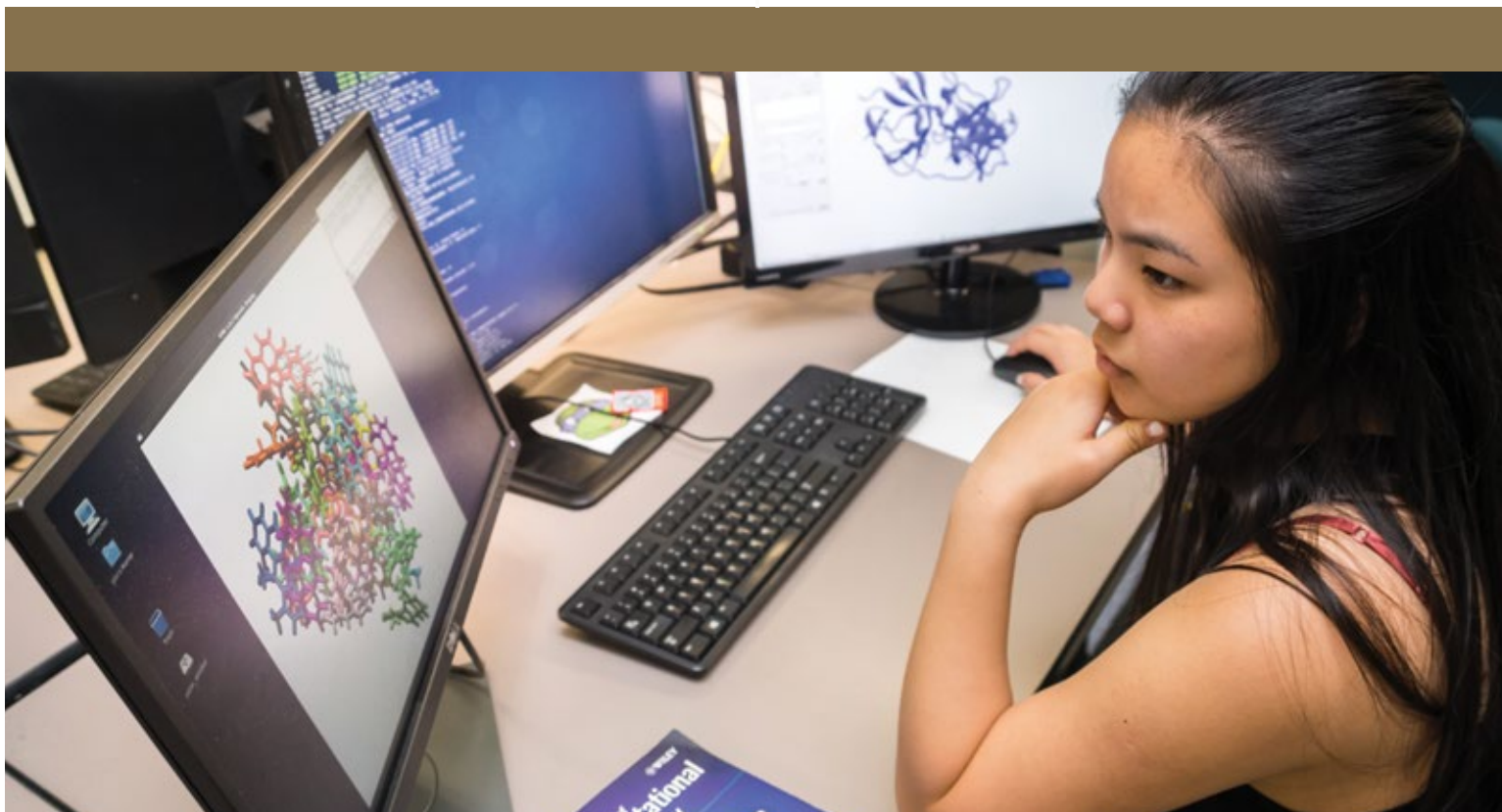
"Truman has a history of wanting to empower students by helping them get their education without taking on tremendous debt. That's important now more than ever," said Marla Fernandez, director of financial aid. "There are multiple avenues that can be taken to minimize educational expenses, and we take pride in helping our students take advantage of every possible opportunity."

In addition to attractive financial aid packages, eligible students can earn generous scholarships through the Truman State University Foundation. The Financial Aid Office also assists students in finding and applying for private scholarships and fellowships, as well as specific opportunities through the Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation. Even prospective students are eligible to seek the office's services before they have formally committed to Truman. The University estimates as many as 97% of students earn scholarships, a key factor in why half graduate with no student loan debt.

## Quality Counts

Lots of schools try to maintain reasonable tuition, and Truman has been very successful in that regard. It's a key factor in why the University has fared well in numerous national rankings and is often cited for its affordability. More importantly, what makes Truman unique is the caliber of education in relation to the cost. The graduation rate remains the best in the state, and Truman students perform well on certification exams, graduate and professional school placement rates, and in the percentage of students who are employed after they earn their degree. By any measurable standard, graduates leave well prepared for wherever their careers may take them. Continuing to attract and retain students in the coming years is contingent on Truman providing the education students will need to fill the jobs of the future.

To that end, **Truman has added 18 new programs in the last five years**, with more offerings still in development. Nearly half of the new programs are in graduate education, including master's degree offerings in mental health counseling, school counseling, and data science and analytic storytelling. New bachelor-level programs include applied linguistics, and biochemistry and molecular biology. Many of the programs build off of existing Truman courses and have been developed to expand to new pools of prospective students while not requiring significant additional investments on the part of the University.



“We have tried to be very strategic and data driven in how we create additional program options for students,” said Kevin Minch, associate provost. “We use economic data to look down the road and see what the job market needs from graduates and then evaluate how we can meet the needs of students with the resources we already have available.”

Embracing the new does not mean abandoning the old. The University remains true to its liberal arts core, with students receiving a distinctive blend of broad foundational perspectives and highly specialized academic programming. Truman has added programs that allow students to be successful after graduation, and their experience is enhanced because it is built upon a liberal arts and sciences foundation.

“All of these new programs have been created with the needs of students in mind, including what support students might need in a particular field to be most successful,” Minch said. “Helping them complete their degree and find employment in a rewarding job has always been the goal.”

## What’s in it for Me?

Spend any amount of time with a prospective college student and their level of pragmatism might be surprising. Gone are the days of picking a school simply based on family legacies or name recognition. Discerning students of today are less concerned about a school’s reputation for parties and more interested about what they can get out of their time on campus. Internships, research opportunities, career readiness and transformative experiences carry more weight.

“Students want college to be an experience – collectively, one that entails much more than what they did in high school,” said Tyana Lange, vice president of student engagement, enrollment and marketing. “They want to engage in one or more

transformational experiences that match their interests and help them meet their goals. Our job is to help students see that these experiences are fun, important to learning and a significant investment in their future.”

### A perfect example of Truman encouraging resume-building experiences is the Student Research Conference.

Hailed for its innovative approach



to showcasing student work, this year marked the 35th anniversary of the undergraduate version of the conference and the 20th year graduate student work was included. Nearly a third of all Truman students participate in research during their time on campus.

One recently implemented program is not only giving Truman students an opportunity to develop leadership skills, it is simultaneously cultivating prospective students who may not otherwise have considered attending the University. TRU Leaders Next-Gen builds on the University’s established TRU Leaders program. Currently enrolled students serve as mentors to Kirksville High School students identified by the district as having great potential who would be the

first in their families to attend college or who come from underserved populations.

“This accomplishes two distinct goals,” said Rashmi Prasad, dean of the School of Business and creator of the program. “Our students develop leadership skills that will serve them throughout their careers, and the mentored students are able to assess, learn and practice time and stress management, as well as their communication skills. Students also participate in high-impact experiences that broaden their thinking about future career opportunities. That will better prepare them for college, and hopefully many of them will choose to attend Truman when the time comes.”

One of the most transformative experiences possible is studying abroad, and this summer Truman resumed the practice for the first time since the pandemic began. The Center for International Education Abroad is a campus resource that helps students navigate the wide variety of academic opportunities available to explore the world. Truman also offers some scholarship packages that include a stipend specifically for study abroad.

In terms of preparation services, the Career Center is another valuable resource for students. It provides help with choosing a major, exploring career paths, finding internships, prepping for interviews, graduate school research and securing a job. In recent years its Career and Graduate School Expo has expanded from a single-day event to a weeklong affair taking place in both the fall and spring semesters.

The Career Center boasts a state-of-the-art career data management system, #HireTruman, that allows students to search and apply for vetted jobs, as well as create their own profile complete with resume and portfolios for documents. Students can elect to allow employers to view their profile and the employer can reach out directly. The #HireTruman platform is also used to facilitate virtual meetings between employers and students, and the Career Center



provides virtual drop-in services available to all students and alumni.

"These drop-in services are popular with individuals who cannot come to our office, such as alumni who do not live in Kirksville, students who commute to school or those who feel more comfortable meeting virtually for whatever reason," said David Lusk, associate vice president for career development.

For anyone on campus that needs access to proper resources while conducting their job search, the center recently created two new virtual interviewing suites, complete with technology and lighting appropriate for professional interviews.

"We know that students have appreciated these suites as they have referred their friends to reserve such services," Lusk said. "Students will often talk about not having a place to do virtual interviews that is free of distraction, so many have chosen to reserve our interview rooms."

## Help Make it Happen

One significant sign of the University wholly investing in student support is its ambitious plan to renovate the Kirk Building (page 2). With financial assistance from the state of Missouri, Truman will revitalize one of the campus' oldest buildings into a new Student Success Center.

Comprised of the Career Center, Tutoring Services, the Student Health Center, Counseling Services, Student Access and Disability Services, the Center for Academic Excellence, the Communication Lab and the Writing Center, the new facility will be a centralized location for many of the services students need throughout their time on campus.

**"Having all of these resources under one roof will not only be convenient for students, it will allow the University to amplify the amount of support**

**we can provide,** bolstering student retention efforts," said Jonathan Vieker, director of retention and student success. "By using a collaborative service model, departments will be able to coordinate with one another more effectively to best meet the needs of the student."

Support can come in many forms, and sometimes it originates with students. The more than 230 organizations on campus provide outlets for students to be themselves and connect with others with similar interests, whether it be through Greek Life, service organizations, affinity clubs or identity-based groups. Recently, the University allotted space for the creation an LGBTQ+ Resource Center and will be sponsoring an

esports team for the first time in the fall (page 7).

"These are ideas driven by student interests. They are important to them, so it's important for the University to understand that and be supportive if we want to continue to attract new students," Lange said. "Prospective students need to be able to see themselves at Truman, and being open to the types of services and experiences they want enables us to make it a reality for them."

## The Future is Bright

For those schools willing and able to adapt, the future is bright. Truman is poised to rise as the higher education landscape evolves. Liberal arts cornerstones like critical thinking and problem-solving skills become more valuable every year. Learning simply for the sake of knowledge does not have to be put to the side in the name of career readiness. Those two pillars can and should coexist, and schools like Truman are adept at fostering both. Only good things come from knowledge and enlightenment. As Truman continues to empower students to reach their full potential, society at the local, state, national and even global levels will continue to reap the benefits. ✨



# New Man on the Minnesota Vikings

Tyler Williams was part of a Super Bowl-winning organization last year. Now he is using his exercise science degree to help a new team reach their peak potential.

IT IS A RELATIVELY SMALL CLUB OF PEOPLE WHO CAN CLAIM THE TITLE OF “WORLD CHAMPION,” and Tyler Williams ('06) is one of the few. He joined the ranks in February when the Rams, an organization he has been affiliated with professionally for almost 20 years, hoisted the Lombardi Trophy. As the team's director of sports science, the achievement was the product of a highly focused career.

“My whole life has been involved with sports and activity,” he said. “I always had a passion for understanding how the body functions and trying to understand the puzzle of what could be done to reduce injury risk and also gain a competitive advantage.”

Williams came to Truman because he saw a well-respected school that could help him reach his goals. The athletic training program offered hands-on experiences and talented instructors



“ The essence of an athletic trainer is really being a caregiver. The biggest misconception is that we work the games and practices during the season and then have time off in the off season.”

– TYLER WILLIAMS

**WORLD  
CHAMPION**



TYLER WILLIAMS



## CLASS OF '06



that supported the students.

“The Health and Exercise Science Department was impressive in their process of operation, structure and faculty,” he said. “There was a passion for the industry that was unmatched from my visits with other universities.”

As a student, Williams was encouraged to pursue internship opportunities. Following his passion, he sent his resume to all 32 NFL organizations, eventually landing a position with the St. Louis Rams, just up the road from his hometown of Crystal City, Missouri. Williams worked summer internships with the club for three years, followed by three yearlong internships while he completed a master’s degree from California University of Pennsylvania. In 2010 he joined the team full-time as an athletic trainer for four years. He would go on to serve as the team’s sports science coordinator/manager for three years before taking on the role of director of sports science in 2019.

The NFL’s regular season may run 18 weeks, but that does not mean Williams spends the rest of the year on the golf course. Along with getting players ready for the weekly demands of a physically grueling game, he and his fellow trainers: coordinate post-season surgeries and rehabs; attend the annual NFL combine to medically assess and evaluate potential draft picks; and participate in numerous meetings to understand research on topics such as helmet testing, biomechanical assessments, performance assessments, internal medical injuries and orthopedic injuries all designed with an eye toward developing new safety protocols.

“The essence of an athletic trainer is really being a caregiver,” Williams said. “The biggest misconception is that we work the games and practices during the season and then have time off in the off season.”

In the best of circumstances, being responsible for the health and wellness of an NFL roster is challenging. Adding a pandemic on top did not make things any easier.

“Everything became individualized and spaced out in a world of group settings and tight spaces in athletics, which created

hurdles on top of the everyday workload,” Williams said. “We had to think outside the box from what was traditionally done and become problem solvers in order to maintain efficient and effective training methods for our athletes.”

Williams gained some experience in dealing with disruptive events several years before the pandemic hit. Following the 2015 season, the Rams relocated from St. Louis to Los Angeles. Along with coaches and players, staff members had a decision to make. Williams chose to take the 1,800-mile trip west, not just because he loved his job or needed a paycheck.

“Being from the Midwest it was difficult to take that leap, but our vice president of sports medicine and performance, Reggie Scott, is an industry leader in sports medicine,” he said. “It made for an easier move knowing I could continue to develop under him.”

Along with his own professional development, Williams saw his athletes reach their full potential on the field. The Rams went to the Super Bowl in 2019 and won it 2022.

“It was an absolutely phenomenal experience,” he said. “Going through it, you really realize how many things have to go right and how important it is to work with amazing people. The entire organization has to be working in lockstep in the same direction, not just the players and coaches, but the medical staff, strength staff, sports science, nutrition, front office, equipment and operations.”

Williams ended his time with the Rams on the highest of notes. Following the season, he took a job with the Minnesota Vikings as the executive director of player health and safety. The change gets him a little closer to his Midwestern roots, and he is excited to work with new general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah and head coach Kevin O’Connell.

“I have always tried to go where I am led. The Vikings are an amazing organization with phenomenal ownership that prioritizes their people and the care of their athletes,” Williams said. “The opportunity to work with people like that and build something together is what drew me to Minnesota – the people.”





# Sure, Why Not?

**An optimistic approach to life has helped Shelley Washington establish a career doing what she loves.**

**WHEN PUT ON THE SPOT TO IDENTIFY A COMPOSER**, most people can name Bach or Beethoven. More refined listeners can cite other – usually long deceased – men often associated with classical music. Shelley Washington is one of the relatively few individuals who can claim composer as a job title, but she doesn't buy into the perceived hoity-toity nature of the field.

"Anyone is a composer the second you intentionally make something up," she said. "You don't even have to write it down. If you make up some noise in your head that you intentionally assembled, that's it. That's the only thing it takes to be a composer, in my mind. Because I don't think you have to have specialized training to be able to make stuff up that you like that you want to share."

Washington ('13, '14) has a relaxed approach to her profession, probably because she has the bona fides to back it up. Along with her two degrees from Truman, she has master's degrees from NYU and Princeton, and she is a year away from earning a Ph.D. in music composition from the latter. Her experience goes beyond theory and into actual practice, having composed pieces for large and small ensembles, soloists and even musical theatre. Washington's musical influences are vast and wide, making it difficult to categorize her creations.

"Making sound and noise in some capacity is just what I do, and it is also very convenient that it is my job," she said. "It is hard for me to explain it because it's the stuff I wrote."

Growing up in Kansas City, Washington's parents regularly took her to the symphony and opera, and her uncle was a prominent jazz musician. She learned how to play the English handbells through her involvement in church ensembles, and on any given day she can be



CLASS OF '13, '14



*Washington and her band Good Looking Friends stop by Carnegie Hall before they finish their tour.*



*Washington sits on the stoop of her Brooklyn apartment with her dog Rodeo.*

found listening to country, pop, folk, big band, rock or mambo. Making a living as a composer was never the original goal. She came to Truman with the intent to become a music teacher.

"I grew up listening to everything that was on and really just loving all of it, and I didn't want that to go away," she said.

The plan changed for Washington just before she started the MAE program at Truman, thanks to an interdisciplinary grant between the music and theatre departments. Two students – one from each program – were selected to spend the summer creating a musical theatre production. Washington got her first taste of composing original music, and it sparked an interest. After completing her degree, she visited family in New York City to check out prospective schools. She also researched contemporary composers, becoming a fan of Julia Wolfe. Washington got to meet Wolfe on her trip to New York and even sat in on one of her classes. When Wolfe expressed interest in Washington's portfolio, her career trajectory changed immediately.

"That was all I needed, to hear one of my heroes saying, 'hey, I like your stuff, and I think you should do it,'" Washington said.

Making a drastic career change and moving halfway across the country to one of the biggest cities in the world might seem overwhelming to some. For Washington, it fits right in with her philosophy on life, which pretty much boils down to "sure, why not?"

"That's been 90% of my career thus far – 'sure, why not?' – and it's been really fun. It's really

weird, but it's really fun," she said.

Keeping an open mind has opened doors for Washington. Her willingness to work with anyone, try anything and go wherever the job may take her has led to one experience after another. She's played with nearly 20 different ensembles and recorded with countless artists, samples of which can be found on her website, [shelleywashington.com](http://shelleywashington.com). Her work was even featured in an episode of the Netflix documentary series "Explained."

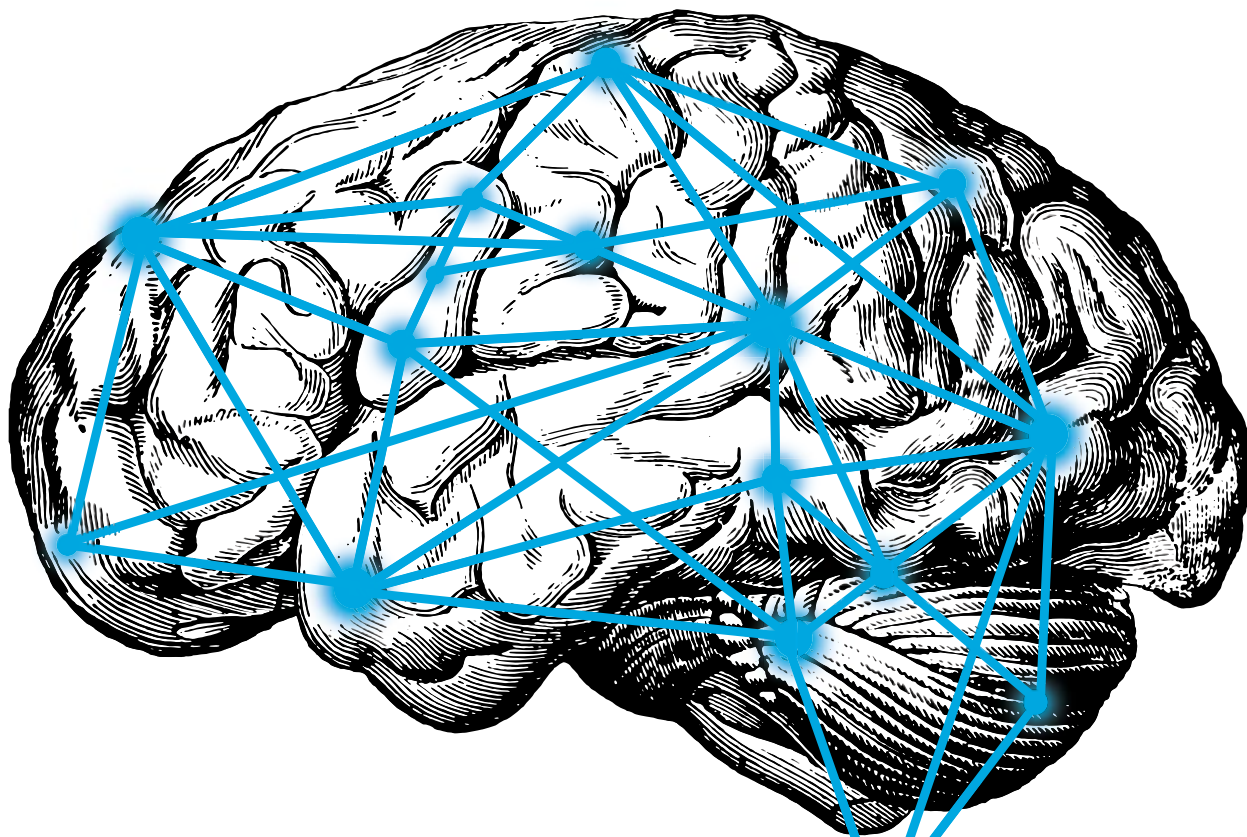
As a performer, Washington specializes in the baritone saxophone. She is also proficient in the alto saxophone, flute, handbells and guitar, but surprisingly not the instrument most people associate with composers. She self identifies as a "garbage" piano player.

In addition to her composing career, Washington's versatility as a performer helped her snag a spot in the Brooklyn-based band Good Looking Friends. The passion project checks a very specific item off of her bucket list.

"My childhood dream of playing in a rock band is being fulfilled, and I love it," she said.

Washington is always looking for an opportunity, and she has already found her next project. She will spend the next three years writing and editing an opera in conjunction with a friend's podcast based on the life of former model-turned-stalker Nell Theobald.

"This is a first for me, which is very scary and very exciting," she said. "It's hard learning new things, especially once you become a grown-up. However, I will never stop learning."



## THE CASE OF THE

# Disappearing Disease

Greg Gerhardt has dedicated his career to improving the lives of patients with neurological diseases.

**NOW IN HIS FIFTH DECADE AS A NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE RESEARCHER,** Greg Gerhardt is no stranger to the harsh realities of the field. He knows money and research flow to where they can serve the greatest good, however, those with rare conditions can often feel set adrift because it is not financially viable to invest in smaller patient markets. Just because he understands the logic, doesn't mean he has to accept it.

For Gerhardt, his interest in finding cures for those left behind started at an early age. His grandfather passed away from a brain tumor before he was born, and he grew up hearing stories about how its manifestations and treatment changed him.

"Ultimately, that had more effects on my family than the actual death of him," Gerhardt said. "It's become kind of a Sherlock Holmes novel for me of reconstructing



over the years exactly what happened.”

Looking at the progression of his career, Gerhardt does give the appearance of a detective doggedly doing whatever is necessary to track down a culprit. After graduating from the University with a degree in chemistry in 1979, he went on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas with further training in psychiatry and pharmacology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. He has had extensive training in chemistry, neuroscience, pharmacology, neurosurgery and psychiatry. At the University of Kentucky Health Sciences Center he holds the Charles D. Lucas, Jr. Professorship for Parkinson’s Disease Research. He is a professor in the departments of neuroscience, neurosurgery, neurology, psychiatry, pharmaceutical sciences and electrical engineering. From 1999-2012, Gerhardt served as director of the Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Disease Research Center of Excellence at the

Chandler Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky – one of 12 centers of that type in the U.S. – and he is currently director of the Center for Microelectrode Technology and co-director of the Brain Restoration Center.

“It’s kind of one of those trains I jumped on and kept jumping on to another track. I got hooked on it, trying to solve these problems,” he said.

The next piece of the puzzle Gerhardt drops into place has the potential to be the most important. He recently co-founded Avast Therapeutics, a company designed to advance new

treatments for neural disease. By building off of existing research and clinical trials, Gerhardt and his colleagues hope to fill a void in treatment.

“We feel that not every therapeutic has to be the barnstormer,” he said. “You have that niche of people to treat, and that’s what we’re going after.”

Specifically, Gerhardt is drawing on decades of experience with Parkinson’s disease in an effort to provide a better quality of life for the 60,000 individuals diagnosed each year. As a founding member of the Michael J. Fox Foundation, Gerhardt knows as well as anyone how much progress has already been made. Not a week goes by where he isn’t participating in a surgical procedure to implant a deep brain stimulation electrode in a patient to help control tremors and rigidity. In a perfect world, he hopes to make more progress through less invasive means. Avast is researching nasal therapeutics and inhalers to administer medicine more efficiently. The company also plans to explore biomarkers to identify a disease’s progression and tailor a precise treatment for an individual.

“One of the major hurdles in my field of neurodegenerative diseases is that we too often treat these diseases as a single phenotypic disease, when in reality, it’s a spectrum of diseases,” Gerhardt said. “We’ve come a long way, but we’ve got a long way to go.”

To make the most of every research dollar, Avast develops therapies or devices that may have gone unexplored by bigger companies. When they have a product ready to go beyond their scope, they seek assistance to get it to scale.

“Really our business model is to develop the technology to the point where we can likely turn it over to a larger firm that has the pipeline and the resources to move in different directions than we can,” he said.

When coming up with the name for their company, Gerhardt and his co-founders settled on Avast because it is a nautical term that means stop, commonly associated with “Moby-Dick.” The goal is ideally to put an end to – or stop – all neurological disorders, but unlike Captain Ahab, Gerhardt has reasonable expectations in pursuit of his own white whale. Previously, Parkinson’s disease might take 10 years off of a patient’s life span, but through continued medical vigilance Gerhardt has seen it evolve from a death sentence to something that can be managed with proper treatments. Although he will continue to work toward eradication, that much progress can be its own reward.

“In the business of medicine, the big thing is to help our patients have a better quality of life,” he said. “We may not be able to cure something, but we can improve the quality of your life so you can live with it much better and have a fulfilling life.”



# Heeding the Call

**By being open to opportunities when they were presented, Marisa Stam is now in a position to help the global orphan crisis.**

## **FATE HAS A FUNNY WAY OF ACCOMPLISHING ITS GOALS.**

Marisa (Starbard) Stam earned a communication degree with the hope of working as a foreign correspondent. After graduating in 1997, she ended up in corporate retail, first for Target and later with Starbucks. Working for the latter

rekindled interests beyond balance sheets and profit margins.

“The coffee belt is in the strip of the world where there’s a lot of developing countries,” she said. “While I was at Starbucks, I got reintroduced to things that I appreciated in college, like international poverty issues, and kind of the world at large.”







## CLASS OF '97

In 2007, Starbucks sent Stam to the CARE Conference in Washington, D.C. With the mission of ending poverty, the conference offers opportunities for networking, and Stam met an affiliate of the Selamta Family Project. A unique organization based in Ethiopia, the Selamta Family Project brings hope and healing to orphaned and abandoned children by recreating and empowering families. Children in its care are placed with families and supported through a holistic, community integrated approach rooted in permanency. They do not age out, and they are supported through their first living-wage job.

Stam and two fellow Starbucks employees were invited to visit the Selamta Family Project on a trip the following year. Not only did they generate enough financial support to cover their trip, they were also able to provide funding to support a new forever family home in Ethiopia.

"It was incredible. I had never experienced so much generosity in my life. Through our store we ended up raising a total of \$15,000," she said. "That trip in 2008 radically changed my life. It was a very personal experience."

After returning home, Stam stayed connected to the Selamta Family Project, serving on its board of directors. Feeling more connected to her faith, she also started working as the director of outreach and development for her church in Maine. Although she did not take that job for the experience, it would play a key role in her future. In 2014, not long after her husband Aaron ('97) accepted a job that relocated their family to Florida, the

Selamta Family Project asked Stam to serve as executive director. She would be responsible for all aspects of the organization's operations, including marketing, fundraising, business management, program oversight and strategic development.

"I learned a lot very quickly about leading a nonprofit," Stam said, "My formal education through Truman obviously played a big part on the communication side, and then my practical experience in business through corporate retail and then nonprofit by working with the church for three-and-half years, it just all kind of culminated with a skillset that somewhat prepared me for this new role. I was definitely not fully prepared, but I feel like I'd been given an opportunity with all the assortment of things I've been privileged to learn in all that time and apply that to this new role."

Stam is charged with meeting large goals with a small staff. She is one of three full-time, U.S.-based employees. There are two other part-time domestic employees, but more than 50 in Ethiopia. That is by design.

"This is not some Western mindset coming in saying, 'hey, you guys are doing it wrong,' This is really all about equipping exceptional people on the ground to do what they've been called to do with excellence," she said.

Establishing a solid foundation should allow the organization to have greater impacts year after year. So far, Selamta has served more than 220 children and families in Ethiopia, of which 35 children have successfully launched to independence. New homes were established in 2019 and 2020, and 17 new children started with the program in 2021.

"Just the outcomes that we've seen already are super humbling," Stam said. "It's been an amazing journey so far, and I can't wait to see where it goes."

In hindsight, it appears fate always put Stam in the proper place at just the right time. She's found a calling that speaks to her passions, and while she realizes others might not be in a similar position, she feels like everyone can still make meaningful contributions.

"Not everyone is called to foster or adopt, but everyone can play a part somewhere in caring for orphaned and vulnerable kids and vulnerable families," she said. "There are so many ways the gifts and talents that you've been given can bless somebody else, it's just a matter of being willing."

“There are so many ways the gifts and talents that you’ve been given can bless somebody else, it’s just a matter of being willing.”

– MARISA STAM

A Way

WITH

Words



Shane Mecham is one of the most accomplished debaters in Truman's history, and he has stayed close to the forensics community throughout his career.

**BY HIS OWN ACCOUNT, SHANE MECHAM ('01) IS A "DEBATE NERD."** He took up the activity in seventh grade and by high school was competing in national tournaments. As he was looking for a medium-sized, affordable school just far enough from his hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska, the forensics team is what sealed the deal for him to attend Truman.

"In college, I wanted to continue competing in forensics at the highest levels," he said. "When they offered me a debate scholarship, it was an easy choice."

In hindsight, Mecham owes more than just an education to his forensics experience. While he specialized in debate, he quickly added speech events. He thought he would enjoy it, in part because his future wife, Heather Helm Mecham, was one of the team leaders.





"I started competing in CEDA debate," he said. "Heather and Sandy ran speech team practices twice a week that looked like so much fun that I added speech events

to my repertoire. Plus, I had a big crush on Heather."

Winning has a way of making things more enjoyable too, and during Mecham's time on campus the forensics team was particularly dominant. Despite a carousel of coaches – three for debate and four for speech – the team enjoyed success on the state and national levels. Personally, Mecham was so versatile in both speech and debate he was entered in multiple events, which led to him single-handedly causing a two-hour delay at the state tournament his freshman year. By the next season, the rules had been altered to restrict how many events one person could enter.

Mecham was an All-American his senior year and got to debate against the Irish national team. In his junior year, the team won the national parliamentary debate championship and Mecham finished 15th overall at the National Forensics Association championships. The city of Kirksville declared a "Truman State Debate Team Day" and all of the members received keys to the city.

"Those keys cannot be redeemed for free drinks anywhere in town," Mecham said. "We checked."

As if contributing to his education and his future family were not enough, Mecham also used his forensics experiences as the foundation for his legal career. He attended the University of Texas School of Law, where he was a law review editor and earned his J.D. with honors in 2004.

"Forensics teaches you to construct arguments, evaluate arguments, see both sides and think on your feet. Those skills are essential to the practice

of law," he said. "Plus, litigators spend their whole careers fighting with people. That can get tiring, but debaters love the fight."

Like his forensics career, Mecham's legal expertise runs the gamut. He has worked at large-, medium- and small-sized firms gaining perspective in a variety of areas from personal cases to corporate litigation. He even served as an NFL agent for a period of time with one firm. The array of legal avenues is something he is prepared for thanks to his education, and specifically, forensics.

"I am a commercial litigator, which is a broad category," he said. "It means I handle lots of different types of cases, and that's something I learned from debate too. In parliamentary debate, the topic changed every round. One round we would be debating foreign policy in Africa, and the next round we would be debating civil rights. I am comfortable constantly learning, and then advocating, new material."

For the past 12 years, Mecham has been with Levy Craig Law Firm in Kansas City, where he currently chairs the firm's litigation group. Along with guiding associate attorneys, he gets to try his own cases, something that can be particularly rewarding.

"There is no feeling like winning a jury trial," Mecham said. "Jury trials are exhausting, both mentally and physically. Then the jury comes back and announces its verdict just like on television. To win in that moment, after all the hard work, is exhilarating."

Even though Mecham is well established in his legal career, he has stayed active in speech and debate circles. He has judged debate tournaments, and now he is watching as his son competes in high school tournaments under the direction of Tyler Unsell, a former college teammate. Mecham has also been a board member and past president of DEBATE-Kansas City, an urban debate league that supports teams from underfunded schools.

"Debate is an amazing activity that uses the power of competition to teach students critical academic skills in ways that they would never learn them in a classroom," he said. "Many of the best times of my life are related to debate. I'm happy to do whatever I can to deliver that experience to a student who would not otherwise have it."

For all his efforts, Mecham was inducted into the National Forensic Association Hall of Fame in 2016. He is the first person in the history of Truman's forensics program to achieve such an honor.



CLASS OF '01



# TOP DOGS



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### ELLIE WELTHA

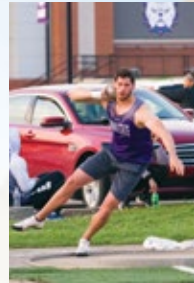
Weltha earned all-region and first-team all-conference honors after averaging more than 16 points and 10 rebounds per game this past season. She pulled down 307 rebounds to rank fifth in a season at Truman and helped the Bulldogs with two clutch free throws in the final seconds as they upset No. 1 Drury at home 67-66, Jan. 17.



## WOMEN'S GOLF

### KARA HUNT

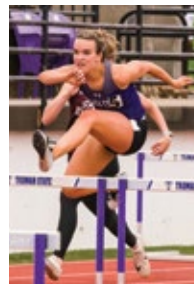
Hunt led the women's golf team in competitive rounds played with 18 and tied for the lowest single-round score of the season at 75 with fellow teammate Natalie Fatka. Hunt averaged 84.3 strokes per round. She had one top-10 finish in a tournament, placing eighth at Columbia College. Honorable mention to Macyn Young who recorded the fifth hole in one in Bulldog golf history and first since 2002.



## MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

### JACOB MORRIS

Morris qualified and earned All-America honors at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships in weight throw after breaking the Bulldog indoor record in the event earlier in the season. Morris finished 10th at the indoor nationals. Moving to the outside season, Morris continued to rule the throwing events and was the GLVC champion in the discus throw.



## WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

### GRACE FEENEY

Feeney took the bronze medal at the 2022 GLVC Outdoor Track & Field Championships in the heptathlon and was a member of the 4x400 relay team that qualified for the Drake Relays this spring. Feeney scored a career-best 4,488 points in the seven-event heptathlon and was the individual event winner in the shot put. She won four events at the Truman Twilight meet and was fourth in a fifth event.



## SOFTBALL

### EMMA WALBERT

The senior wrapped up her Bulldog career in style by going 12 for 14 at the plate in her final weekend, including a five-for-five performance that tied a school record for hits in a game. Walbert led the offense with a .389 batting average while playing and starting in all 43 games. She will leave Truman softball with the fourth-best career batting average at .385. She was also a three-time All-GLVC team member.



## MEN'S BASKETBALL

### CADE MCKNIGHT

The standout forward saved his best for last as he was once again an NABC All-American performer, D2CCA First Team All-Region and earned CoSIDA Academic All-American Honors. He averaged a career high 19.2 points per game and 6.4 rebounds per game. He shot 57.4% from the field and 39.5% from three-point range, also both career bests. He will use his final year of eligibility at Indiana State University as a graduate student.

## BASEBALL

### HOLDEN MISSEY

The junior first baseman led the Bulldogs in most offensive categories again in 2022, leading the team in batting average (.357), runs scored (30), hits (56), home runs (12), doubles (16) and total bases (110). He also served as the team's closer, earning six saves and a 2-1 record in 13 appearances. He had arguably the best hitting performance in program history against Lewis this season, going five-for-five with three home runs, five runs scored and four RBI, April 29.

## MEN'S SWIMMING

### AJ KOHLER

The sophomore earned two B Cuts at the GLVC championships. In the 200 freestyle he finished fifth in the conference with a time of 1:38.54, and in the 200 butterfly he finished 15th with a time of 1:49.99. He also set a new personal best split in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 20.53 at the GLVC championships.

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING

### EMMA BRABHAM

The senior capped off her career by qualifying for nationals in three events: the 50 freestyle, 100 backstroke and 100 freestyle. She swam 23.83 in the 50 free prelims, 55.97 in the 100 back prelims and 52.87 in the 100 free prelims. It was her second-straight appearance at nationals, qualifying in the 100 back in 2020-21.

## TENNIS

### JULIA FANGMAN

Playing primarily in fourth singles this year, the junior earned a 16-6 overall record in singles play this season. In doubles play with Samantha Seggerman, the duo went 13-7 overall, playing mostly second doubles with one match at first doubles. She picked up a win in conference play at William Jewell at fourth singles.



**TIM SCHWEGLER**  
1958 - 2022

## Coach Schwegler Passes

**TIM SCHWEGLER, THE HEAD CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK & FIELD COACH** at Truman, passed away April 14.

A 1980 graduate of the University, Schwegler served as captain of the Bulldog cross country team and was a member of the track team. After graduation, he worked at Kirksville High School as the boys cross country/track & field coach. He led the Tigers to three district titles, two North Central Missouri Conference championships and had three top 10 state finishes.

Schwegler returned to Truman to complete his master's degree and served as a volunteer assistant for the women's cross country/track & field squads. Following his master's degree completion, he was named the head coach at Highland (Kan.) Community College where he built a top-20 NJCAA track and field/cross country program. Schwegler coached 106 athletic All-Americans and 192 academic All-Americans during his tenure at Highland. The Scotties won eight Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference championships and were named the NJCAA Top Academic Team of the Year nine times. He was the 1999 NJCAA Men's Track Coach of the Year and the 2004 NJCAA Region VI Women's Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Highland Hall of Fame.

In 2006, Schwegler returned to Truman to serve as an assistant coach for the Bulldogs. He was elevated in 2013 to the head coaching position. During that time period, he helped produce 25 conference champions, six NCAA Division II All-Americans, one national champion, numerous USTFCCCA All-Academic scholars and teams, nine CoSIDA Academic All-Americans and new school records in 15 different events.

Schwegler is survived by his wife Nancy and two sons, Matt and Sam.

# Two Bulldog Teams Enshrined into Athletics Hall of Fame

**THE 1997 MEN'S SOCCER TEAM AND THE 1972 MEN'S TRACK & FIELD TEAM WERE INDUCTED** into the Truman State University Athletics Hall of Fame in April.



**1997 Men's Soccer**  
(16-6 – NCAA Final Four)

The Bulldog men's soccer team in 1997 advanced to the NCAA Final Four after winning their fourth-straight Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association title and sixth overall. Dennis Sweeney's team went 14-5 during the regular season and was selected to their fourth NCAA Division II tournament in the past seven years.

Round one was a match again rival Southern Illinois Edwardsville in frigid conditions. The Cougars struck three minutes into the match to take the early lead. Senior Jimmy Duran deflected a shot off the post from Adrian Marrero for the equalizer. Late in the match, Marrero scored the winner off a pass from Jeremy Jackson to give Truman their first postseason victory.

The Bulldogs returned home and faced East Stroudsburg (Pa.) University with a ticket to the Final Four on the line. It was Marrero again getting the lone goal as his header off a corner kick in the 14th minute stood up for the win.

Truman traveled to Boca Raton, Florida, for the Final Four and faced California State-Bakersfield in the national semifinals. The Roadrunners scored a first-half goal off a corner kick. The Bulldogs thought they tied the match early in the second half but Duran's goal was waved off due to a foul. Bakersfield would score with 20 minutes left to seal the victory. They would eventually win the national title two days later.

Marrero finished with a team-high 15 goals. He was one of six Bulldogs to earn first-team All-MIAA honors along with Matt Berry, Mike Quante, Heine Andersen, Lee Letourneau and MIAA Most Valuable Player Steve Wilhuesen. Scott Meis, second team, and Duran, honorable mention, were also listed for the Bulldogs.

Andersen, Marrero and Quante were all named to the NSCAA All-Region team, Andersen was a first-team selection.



**1972 Men's Track & Field Team**

Fifty years ago this spring was a magical time for Coach Kenny Gardner's Bulldogs and the 1972 track & field team.

Before the indoor MIAA Championship meet in Columbia, Larry Jones captured the NCAA indoor title in the 440-yard dash held in Detroit, Michigan, March 12.

A week later in historic Brewer Fieldhouse on the campus of the University of Missouri, the Bulldogs dethroned the defending MIAA indoor champion, Southeast Missouri State, by scoring 71 points to claim the conference championship. It was the 12th MIAA title in the previous 14 years for the Bulldogs. The team had six first-place finishes and placed in all but two of the 14 events.

Moving outside, the team opened with events at Eastern Illinois, duals with Central Missouri, Northwest Missouri and Western Illinois and competed in the Kansas Relays. On May 12-13, the MIAA outdoor championships took place in Springfield, Missouri, and the team took six first-place trophies and collected 76 points. Tom Geredine, Don Allbritton and Larry Jones each won two MIAA individual titles apiece.

Ashland, Ohio, was the scene for the 1972 NCAA College Division Track & Field Championships. With more than 611 athletes representing 115 schools, the Bulldogs earned the highest team finish in school history.

The University had three national champions – Allbritton in the decathlon, Geredine in the triple jump and Jones in the 440. Allbritton earned 22 points during the meet with a three-way tie for second in the high jump and third in the pole vault. Geredine earned All-American honors in the long jump with a sixth-place finish. Jones set a new NCAA record with a time of 45.8 in the event.

Joining Jones in the mile relay to earn All-American honors was Wayne Ventling, Bob Gonzales and Rob Nelson.

Dennis Littrell matched Allbritton's height in the pole vault at 6 foot 8, but due to tiebreakers, earned All-America honors by placing sixth. Al Fulton and Linley Lipper also competed for the Bulldogs at the championships.

Eastern Michigan scored 93 points to win the team title and Norfolk College was second, only six points in front of the Bulldogs.

The season was not done yet. The following week the "Best in Show" moved west to Eugene, Oregon, for the 1972 NCAA University & College Track & Field Championships, now known as the Division I Championships.

Jones finished second, behind UCLA's John Smith, in the 400-meter dash with a time of 45.1 to Smith's 44.5. Allbritton earned the bronze medal in the decathlon.

Coach Gardner's teams would win 34 MIAA championships and earn six, top-10 team finishes at the NCAA College/Division II meet during his career. He was one of the first inductees into the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame in 1983 and the track at Stokes Stadium bears his name after being dedicated to him in 1996.

Allbritton, Geredine, Jones, Lipper, Littrell and Ventling have all been inducted as individuals to the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame.





# Dogspy Awards Return

THE STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUT ON THE DOGSPY AWARDS for the first time in three years this April, honoring the past year in Truman athletics. The ceremony was led by SAAC President Morgan Smith, and many different presenters gave out awards, including President Sue Thomas. Awards were given out for Scholar of the Year, Men's and Women's Athlete of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Coach of the Year and Team of the Year. Additionally, there was an Athlete of the Year for each sport. There was also a special tribute to Mike and Wanda Elam, Pershing Arena maintenance workers who retired this year.

## Scholar of the Year

### Tom Cormier

One of the top distance runners over the past four seasons, Cormier ran in more than 60 races as a member of the cross country/track & field teams. He ran a personal record 31:11.23 in the 10K earlier this spring and also competed in the famous Drake Relays this April. In the classroom he earned a 4.0 GPA in accounting.



## Men's Athlete of the Year

### Cade McKnight

The standout forward was once again an NABC All-American performer, D2CCA First Team All-Region and earned CoSIDA Academic All-American Honors. He averaged a career high 19.2 points per game and 6.4 rebounds per game. He shot 57.4% from the field and 39.5% from three-point range, also both career bests.



## Women's Athlete of the Year

### Emma Brabham

The senior capped off her career by qualifying for nationals in three events: the 50 freestyle, 100 backstroke and 100 freestyle. She swam 23.83 in the 50 free prelims, 55.97 in the 100 back prelims and 52.87 in the 100 free prelims. It was her second-straight appearance at nationals, qualifying in the 100 back in 2020-21.



## Newcomer of the Year

### Jessica Kozol

She started nine of 16 matches this past fall and logged more than 1,100 minutes at midfield and right back. She was part of a stingy Bulldogs back line that allowed only 11 goals all season. She also scored the game winning goal in a 2-0 victory over William Jewell in late October.



## Coach of the Year

### Gregg Nesbitt

The football team played a compressed spring schedule in early 2021 and then a regular fall schedule. During the 2021 spring campaign he led the Bulldogs to a 3-1 record and an appearance in the GLVC championship game. During the fall season he led the Bulldogs to a 9-3 overall record and their second-straight victory in the America's Crossroads Bowl.



## Team of the Year

### Men's Basketball

The Bulldogs entered the season ranked No. 6 in the country and reached as high as No. 2 in the NABC poll this season as they won 20+ games for the eighth time in the last nine seasons. The team qualified for the NCAA Midwest Regional for the third-straight season as the No. 4 seed in the region.



## Athletes of the Year

- Tal Dean** – Baseball
- Hunter Strait** – Men's Basketball
- Ellie Weltha** – Women's Basketball
- Nathan Key** – Men's Cross Country
- Lily Ende** – Women's Cross Country
- Josh Schiederer** – Football
- Kara Hunt** – Golf
- Justin Olwig** – Men's Soccer
- Kate Peterson** – Women's Soccer
- Emma Walbert** – Softball
- AJ Kohler** – Men's Swimming
- Emma Brabham** – Women's Swimming
- Julia Fangman** – Tennis
- Gracie Feeney** – Women's Track & Field
- Jacob Morris** – Men's Track & Field
- Morgan Smith** – Volleyball

## Alumni Association Develops Strategic Plan

The Truman Alumni Association's mission is to foster and strengthen lifelong relationships between its remarkable alumni and friends. In order to achieve this mission, the Association recently adopted a five-year strategic plan. Among the top priorities are elevating diversity, equity and inclusion, defining the value of membership in Truman alumni chapters and using metrics to track progress on key priority areas. In the coming years, this plan will guide leaders and shape the way the Association develops events, communications and opportunities to better fit the needs of alumni and friends.

The strategic plan was designed to create a shared vision around three succinct strategies.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1

#### CONNECT ALUMNI TO EACH OTHER

The Association will work to create social and professional connections through alumni chapters and clubs as well as less formal groups of alumni, such as former members of campus organizations.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2

#### CONNECT ALUMNI TO THE UNIVERSITY

For many, the Alumni Office is the primary connection back to campus. The Alumni Association will partner with campus offices to strengthen relationships, support students and foster lifelong learning.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3

#### CONNECT OTHERS TO THE UNIVERSITY

Alumni are Truman's best ambassadors. The Alumni Association will provide opportunities for alumni to recruit and retain future Bulldogs and to champion Truman spirit around the world.

Over the next five years, these strategies will provide a roadmap for alumni programming and communications to strengthen the connection of alumni to one another and to their alma mater.



Bulldogs are passionate about their alma mater and excited to spread the word. There are plenty of ways to help recruit and support the next generation of Bulldogs.

## // REFER A STUDENT

Nobody knows Truman better than our alumni. Do you have family members, friends or neighbors who might be interested in pursuing the Truman experience? You can help recruit them by filling out our Refer-a-Student Form, and our Admissions Office will contact them at [truman.edu/alumni-donors/refer-a-student](https://truman.edu/alumni-donors/refer-a-student).

## // WELCOME NEW BULLDOGS TO THE FAMILY

In 2021, Truman alumni began writing postcards to accepted students, welcoming them to campus and encouraging them for the year ahead. This program is a great way of making a difference in the lives of students as they prepare to come to Truman. All you have to do is submit an interest form, and we'll contact you with the names and contact information for accepted students. Not entirely sure what you'd write? No worries! We'll send you samples to help inspire you. Find the interest form at [formbuilder.truman.edu/web/form\\_builder2/form\\_builder.asp?testid=4249](https://formbuilder.truman.edu/web/form_builder2/form_builder.asp?testid=4249).

## // ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SPIRIT PROGRAM

As a tribute to Truman's long history of teacher education, the University has developed the TruSpirit Program, offering educator alumni the opportunity to showcase their Truman spirit. The dedicated work of our educators truly shapes the coming generations. The TruSpirit Program equips alumni educators with Truman gear to display in their classrooms or offices, as well as information about the University. Request your TruSpirit packet online at [formbuilder.truman.edu/web/form\\_builder2/form\\_builder.asp?testid=1229](https://formbuilder.truman.edu/web/form_builder2/form_builder.asp?testid=1229).

## // CELEBRATE YOUR BULLDOG FOREVER FAMILY

Truman is more than a university. It becomes family. For many alumni, that's not just figuratively true. Many families have a proud Truman tradition that includes multiple generations of Bulldogs or several siblings attending and graduating from Truman. The commitment of these Bulldog Forever Families often spans decades and becomes a lasting and important part of Truman's history. Do you have a Bulldog Forever Family story you'd like to share? We'd love to celebrate your family's long-standing commitment to Truman. Share your story and family photos online at [truman.edu/bulldogforeverfamily](https://truman.edu/bulldogforeverfamily).



# CONNECT



KIRKSVILLE

## Make plans to come back to Kirksville!

Kirksville is an important part of the Truman experience. Countless memories have been made not just on campus but also at Thousand Hills, favorite haunts around the square and throughout the community. One of the best parts about visiting Kirksville is seeing how all your favorite things stayed the same, but also seeing new improvements come to town. Mark your calendar and pack your bags to make a trip back to Kirksville to see for yourself!



## Alumni Reunion Services

Interested in planning an on-campus reunion? The Office of Advancement is here to help! Reunion Services helps provide resources for hosting on-campus gatherings. From fraternities and sororities to athletic teams or student organizations, this is your chance to reconnect with classmates. Contact the Office of Advancement for assistance securing locations, working with on-campus catering and promoting the event through mass email and online. To begin the process of planning your on-campus reunion, connect with us at [truman.edu/alumni-donors/reunion-services](https://truman.edu/alumni-donors/reunion-services).

# HOME 22 COMING

## October 7-8

Mark your calendars for Truman Homecoming! You don't want to miss this Truman tradition that includes the 50th year reunion, parade, tailgate, Bulldog football and more. The full schedule of activities is in progress. Check online for updated information on this year's Homecoming events at [truman.edu/alumni-donors/events/homecoming](https://truman.edu/alumni-donors/events/homecoming).



## Hometown History Brings Kirksville to You

Even if you aren't able to make it back to Kirksville, virtual programming is the perfect way to bring Kirksville to you. The Alumni Association recently hosted "Hometown History: A Virtual Tour of Truman and Kirksville Historic Places and Spaces." Panelists Cole Woodcox, professor emeritus of English, Debi Boughton, retired Kirksville Tourism director, and Joshna Karki, student representative to the Alumni Board, took alumni and friends on a virtual tour of historic landmarks on campus and throughout northeast Missouri. A recording of the event is available online. Check it out, and take your own walk down memory lane and learn more about the history of campus and of Kirksville at [facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=568849560780646](https://facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=568849560780646).



# GIVING MATTERS

## Amazing Impact

**THANKS TO A GIFT FROM DR. PETE GOLDMAN**, professor emeritus of biology, the University Farm has increased its ability to provide fresh produce for students and community members, enhanced sustainability efforts on campus and provided additional educational opportunities for students.

Since 2011, the greenhouse at the University Farm has provided fresh local produce to Sodexo and the Adair County Food Pantry. The new greenhouse space provides nearly four times the capacity for students to grow fresh fruits and vegetables all year long.

Goldman taught biology at Truman for 44 years. In 2008, he established a scholarship through the Truman State University Foundation for students in biology. The Evolution, Ecology and Conservation Scholarship fund, designed to provide scholarships in perpetuity, has provided nearly \$18,000 in support to date. His most recent gift to the Foundation has provided for

construction of additional greenhouse space. An avid hiker and bird watcher, Goldman is a community leader in the promotion of sustainability and environmental issues.

The current greenhouse is highly successful, having a low loss rate. By reducing the need to transport outside produce in to Kirksville, the greenhouse makes a significant impact on sustainability and provides learning opportunities for students. The main focus of the University greenhouse operation, however, is to make sure the dining halls and food pantry get enough quality produce.

"To me, the new greenhouse space makes the whole University slightly more sustainable," Goldman said. "The food is produced locally, it's organic and it goes from farm to table in the blink of an eye."

To learn more about matching your philanthropic interests with University efforts, contact the Office of Advancement at (660) 785-4133 or [truman.edu/giving](http://truman.edu/giving).



# Investing in the Future

**McNair**  
 SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
 TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**THE ST. LOUIS MCNAIR SCHOLARSHIP** will provide life-changing financial support for Truman students participating in the highly selective Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. A \$400,000 donation from an anonymous alumni couple living in St. Louis established an endowed scholarship to provide a permanent source of funding.

Truman's McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO initiative designed to address obstacles that prevent highly qualified students with strong academic potential from pursuing graduate degrees. Truman has continuously received this competitive funding since 1992 and offers academic and social support through faculty-mentored research experiences, holistic advising for graduate school preparation, peer-to-peer mentorship and paid summer research internships.

Named after NASA astronaut Dr. Ronald E. McNair, Truman's McNair Program is dedicated to providing academically driven students

from first-generation, low-income and minority backgrounds with opportunities to set high career goals in the spirit of McNair's dedication to his own education. McNair died on the Space Shuttle Challenger in January 1986, and his legacy lives on through the strengths, hard work and successes of McNair Scholars at Truman and across the United States.

Currently, 85% of Truman's McNair scholars qualify as low-income. This unique scholarship will provide help for talented students who may not otherwise graduate or attend graduate school without financial assistance. The scholarship is available in their junior year and renewable for seniors progressing through the program. The timing allows students to focus on undergraduate research experiences and graduate application preparation and submission without the burden of taking on additional debt or working long hours while in classes to afford education expenses.

## McNAIR PROGRAM BY NUMBERS:

**377 SCHOLARS SERVED WHO ARE NOW TRUMAN ALUMNI**

**82%**

**Truman McNair Program alumni have completed or are currently enrolled in graduate programs**

**18%**

**attained doctoral degrees**

**34 McNair Scholars served in 2021-2022**

# An April to Remember



April 21 is **National Bulldogs are Beautiful Day**. It's also a day Truman alumni, family and friends give back and support the next generation of beautiful Bulldogs.

This year, members of the **Alumni Board, Board of Governors and Foundation Board** donated more than **\$35,000 in matching funds**. Dollar-for-dollar matches to any Foundation fund were available. Additionally, there were four special giving opportunities to support important campus initiatives.

The **Big Event**, a Truman tradition since 2001, sends students to serve in the Kirksville community each spring. Through the **generosity of Colleen Ritchie ('84) \$5,000 in matching funds** were available for donations from young alumni. All money raised will fund the purchase of T-shirts and breakfast for the students participating in 2023 and grow the Truman spirit of service.

**Bulldog Student Investment Fund (BSIF)**, founded by generous donors in the fall of 2011, is composed of undergraduate members from a diverse background of majors assembled to conduct equity analysis and make investments for the benefit of the Truman State University Foundation. Through the **generosity of Mindy McCubbin ('97) and Tony ('99, '00) and Julie ('00) Marek matching funds totaling \$16,000** were available to benefit the experiential learning of these student analysts.

**Research Experience for Undergraduates in Biochemistry and Genetics**, a new initiative made possible through the **generosity of Dr. Sharron Quisenberry ('66), provided a \$15,000 match** to help fund undergraduate science research. Students will explore specific topics in depth and even make original contributions to an area of study – conducting their own research, collaborating with faculty members or working with other undergraduates to seek a better understanding of the world.

The **Women's Basketball Locker Room will be fully renovated thanks to the generosity of donors**. With construction happening in Pershing Building since June 2021, the women's basketball team endured an entire season without their normal space. This fund will replace lockers and couches, provide new graphics and more.

**Total raised  
in 24 hours  
\$147,438**

**282  
donors**

**Average  
donation  
\$254**



**73% donated  
more than \$60  
and got Truman socks!**





## FOUNDATION CELEBRATION

### THE ANNUAL TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION CELEBRATION

took place April 9. The Foundation Celebration is Truman's signature Foundation event providing an opportunity for the campus community to express gratitude for the most loyal and generous donors. KPMG was presented the Distinguished Corporation/Foundation Award for their strong partnership with the University and the School of Business. Maj. Gen. John V. Cox ('52) and Mrs. Patricia (McMichael) Cox were presented with the President's Leadership Award, one of the most prestigious honors bestowed by Truman. The President's Leadership Award honors select Truman alumni and friends for meritorious service through their gifts of volunteerism, expertise and financial resources. In addition to these distinguished awards, more than 100 benefactors were recognized as new members of the University's prestigious giving societies.

For a listing of all of Truman's giving societies, go to [truman.edu/giving/societies](http://truman.edu/giving/societies).





# MEMORIAM

## 1940s

Nancy (Leslie) Harris ('43) Feb. 20, 2022  
Jean Louise (Young) Webb ('46) March 26, 2022  
Frank Sylvester Mitchell ('49, '56) Jan. 24, 2022

## 1950s

Maysel Pauline (Lynch) Crist ('50, '69) March 5, 2022  
Blanche Lorraine (Mercer) Meeks ('50) Jan. 20, 2022  
William Grant McCrary ('51) Jan. 29, 2022  
Harold Eugene Coffman ('52) Dec. 8, 2021  
John "Gill" Jewett ('52) Oct. 19, 2021  
Bruce C. Johnson ('52) Sept. 17, 2021  
Mary "Jean" (Freeborn) Peterson ('52, '55)  
Jan. 28, 2022  
Vernon Charles William Dickmann ('53) Feb. 27, 2022  
Robert Victor Schnucker ('53) March 28, 2022  
Earl C. Hahn Jr. ('55, '58) March 29, 2022  
Betty Lee (Willcoxson) Mascetta ('55) April 9, 2022  
Ronald Eugene Morlan ('55) Nov. 17, 2021  
Noel J. Pagitt ('55) Feb. 7, 2022  
Paul E. Roquet ('55) March 21, 2022  
Estalene "Esty" (Purvis) Eyer ('56, '86) Oct. 18, 2021  
Virginia Hazel (Baker) Reid ('56, '86) Jan. 2, 2022  
Loretta J. (Cook) Rhoads ('56) Jan. 3, 2022  
Joseph "Joe" Vincent Velk ('56) Nov. 25, 2021  
Elaine (Wellborn) Armbruster ('57) Dec. 26, 2021  
Kathleen "Kitty" (Short) Kandalraft ('57) April 7, 2022  
Robert Lee "Bobby Lee" Shearer ('57, '58) Oct. 27, 2021  
Eugene "Gene" Gregory ('58) Dec. 31, 2021  
Judith A. (Sandfort) Rogers ('58) Oct. 23, 2021  
Wanda Jean (Turner) Warbritton ('58) Feb. 14, 2022  
Michael Adrian Bard ('59, '68) March 22, 2022  
Arthur "Art" Wayne Buchanan ('59) Feb. 24, 2022  
Vincil L. Kaylor ('59) Dec. 31, 2021  
Glen Verlin Lister Jr. ('59, '62) Oct. 19, 2021  
Nina Josephine (Sharpe) McKenzie ('59) Jan. 11, 2022

## 1960s

Roberta Lee (Ellison) Barnett ('60) Feb. 21, 2022  
Sharon Marie (Stokes) Browning ('60, '62) Feb. 6, 2022  
Richard Howard Dutton ('60) Feb. 14, 2022  
Charles Edward Grubb ('60) Jan. 4, 2022  
William Joe Hause ('60) Feb. 3, 2022  
Harvey Joseph Hindley ('60) Feb. 21, 2022  
Lucille Virginia (Starbuck) York ('60, '67) Jan. 5, 2022  
Weldon Brown Calvert ('61) Sept. 13, 2021

Irl Martin Lutz ('61) Jan. 26, 2022  
Lee H. Roberts ('61) March 22, 2022  
Richard Omer "Dick" Moore ('62) Oct. 25, 2021  
Frank Leo Parsons ('62, '68) Nov. 17, 2021  
James "Jim" Orval Preston ('62, '66) Jan. 16, 2022  
Dee Ann (Stine) Stults ('62) April 7, 2022  
William Jewell "Bill" Thorne ('62) Feb. 24, 2022  
Louis "Lou" Conrad Byers ('63) Dec. 16, 2021  
Tom Crall ('63) Feb. 5, 2022  
Richard Charles Davies ('63) Oct. 13, 2021  
Laura Lee Sinclair ('63) Oct. 19, 2021  
James Thompson ('63) Dec. 26, 2021  
Ramsey Shane Cavanah ('64, '69) Feb. 8, 2022  
Dennis Paul Hesskamp ('64) Jan. 25, 2021  
Donald James Hopp ('64) Nov. 14, 2021  
Sharyn R. (Osborn) Sander ('64) June 9, 2019  
Charles Walter Akright ('65) Nov. 3, 2021  
Gary R. De Vore ('65) March 1, 2022  
Robert G. McDonald ('65) Jan. 14, 2022  
Foster "Kent" Holcomb ('66) Nov. 21, 2021  
Mary Lee (Strawn) Jorgenson ('66, '75) March 6, 2022  
Clarence "Gene" E. Wagler ('66) Jan. 13, 2022  
Charles A. Chase ('67) Feb. 20, 2022  
Jon Weston Church ('67) Nov. 2, 2021  
Fredrick J. Fridlington ('67, '68) April 10, 2022  
Ronald Harbin ('67) Nov. 20, 2021  
Hugh James Hartin ('67) Feb. 9, 2022  
George Richard Kruger ('67) Nov. 23, 2021  
James Louis Lynch ('67) Dec. 27, 2021  
Dorothy Kathryn (Schreiner) Peavler ('67, '69)  
Nov. 15, 2021  
Gerald D. "Jerry" Robbins ('67) Jan. 31, 2022  
Richard L. "Dick" Schuhler ('67) April 4, 2022  
Linda Lou (Moffett) Tinker ('67, '70)  
Oct. 29, 2021  
Thomas Louis Vetter ('67) Nov. 11, 2021  
Howard Bowens ('68) Jan. 11, 2021  
Bruce Edward Pfeiff ('68) Nov. 15, 2021  
Jeanne (Bealmer) Price ('68) Feb. 24, 2022  
Terry Allen Robertson ('68, '70) Jan. 11, 2022  
Edward Eugene Roy ('68, '69) March 21, 2022  
Barbara Jean (Bean) Campbell ('69) Sept. 5, 2020  
David Owen Erwin ('69, '76) April 7, 2022  
Robert L. Jackson ('69) March 3, 2022  
Paul "Craig" Jeffries ('69) Feb. 17, 2022  
Mary Lynn (Wilson) Laney ('69, '70) Oct. 30, 2021  
Shirley Lynch ('69, '76) Oct. 26, 2021  
Sandra A. "Sandy" (West) Meador ('69) Oct. 21, 2021  
Richard K. "Dick" Petersen ('69) Sept. 5, 2020  
Norma Jean "Bird" Whisler-Sprouse ('69)  
March 28, 2022

This section includes individuals known to have passed away since the previous issue of the Truman Review was published in Winter 2022 and reported to the University by April 29, 2022. To report the passing of alumni and friends, contact the Office of Advancement at (800) 452-6678, [bulldogforever@truman.edu](mailto:bulldogforever@truman.edu) or by mail at Office of Advancement, Truman State University, 100 E. Normal Ave., Kirksville, MO 63501-4221.

1970s

- Twila (Gallman) Albertson ('70) Jan. 30, 2018
- Oliver J. Butt ('70) Dec. 1, 2021
- Ronald L. Golick ('70) March 21, 2022
- Jerry Lee Harris ('70) Dec. 17, 2021
- William "Bill" Alexander Howard ('70) Nov. 6, 2021
- Rosanna (Behle) McDaniel ('70) Jan. 16, 2021
- Warren Lee Miller ('70) Jan. 8, 2022
- Paul Michael "Mike" Mulholland ('70) Jan. 2, 2022
- Ethel Elizabeth (Overman) Richardson ('70) April 19, 2022
- Martha (Hightshoe) Schemmel ('70) Feb. 21, 2022
- Richard G. "Dick" Stender ('70) March 22, 2022
- Donald Allen Stuart ('70, '73) Jan. 2, 2022
- Richard "Dick" Tiller ('70) Aug. 8, 2021
- Harry Gene Wagy ('70) Jan. 10, 2022
- James Edward Warfield Sr. ('70) April 4, 2022
- Benni Caryol Washington ('70, '75) April 4, 2022
- David Lee Wood ('70) Dec. 11, 2014
- Pamela Jean (Lindenbusch) Bier ('71) Nov. 17, 2021
- Dennis Eugene Brand ('71) Dec. 12, 2021
- Virginia Ellen (Ford) Fields ('71) Nov. 5, 2021
- Allyn Scott Graham ('71) Oct. 29, 2017
- Katherine "Katie" Marie (Hoffmann) Graves ('71) Oct. 30, 2021
- Robert "FBI Bob" D. Harbourn ('71) March 4, 2018
- Leroy "Lee" C. Leidal ('71) Oct. 28, 2021
- Leo L. Martelon ('71) Dec. 7, 2011
- Tommy "Tom" G. Phillips ('71) Jan. 26, 2022
- Jerry Wayne Robertson ('71) April 19, 2014
- David Eirington Roseberry ('71) Aug. 25, 2013
- Coe Elaine (Ford) Werts ('71, '83) March 19, 2022
- Michael Wayne Yager ('71) Dec. 23, 2019
- Elizabeth Ann (Twyman) Anderson ('72) Dec. 23, 2021
- Thomas "Tom" P. Braunger ('72) Oct. 26, 2021
- Charles Ellis "Charlie" Conkin ('72) March 18, 2022
- Janie Marie (Stevenson) Isaacs ('72) Feb. 10, 2022
- Stephen Loras Kedley ('72) Dec. 26, 2021
- Rosemary Ann (Ford) Morris ('72) Nov. 11, 2021
- Iladean (Freeborn) Oden ('72) Nov. 12, 2021
- James Sylvester Rice ('72) Jan. 21, 2022
- Charles Benjamin Rooker ('72) Feb. 15, 2022

- David Luther Smith ('72) Dec. 7, 2021
- John Virgil Ash ('73) Dec. 7, 2021
- Melinda A. (Stallings) Johnson-Kraus ('73, '77) Dec. 25, 2021
- Randy Rhea Flambeau ('74) Nov. 26, 2021
- James Lee Kelley ('74) Jan. 11, 2022
- Duane A. "Ike" Monroe ('74) April 12, 2022
- Dennis Murphy ('74) Nov. 5, 2021
- Sharon Lea (Ewing) Watt ('74) Jan. 9, 2022
- Joan L. Crist ('75) Oct. 30, 2021
- Richard Victor Hodits ('75, '80) Dec. 31, 2021
- William "Bill" Sloop ('75) April 9, 2022
- Deborah Kay "Debby" (Gordon) Thrasher ('75) Feb. 7, 2022
- Michele (Maurer) White ('75, '78) Jan. 3, 2021
- Cecily Ann (Cox) Brown ('76) Dec. 16, 2021
- Anthony "Tony" Lee Newton ('76) Jan. 20, 2022
- Jerry Lee Stepro ('76) Nov. 25, 2021
- Martin Anthony "Tony" Campbell ('77) Nov. 30, 2021
- Eugene P. Dixon Jr. ('77) Jan. 31, 2020
- Donovan R. Meinhardt ('77) Feb. 14, 2022
- Doris "Jane" (Mitchell) Middleton ('77, '79) Jan. 12, 2022
- Scott Craig Smith ('77) March 1, 2018
- William Roy Alexander ('78) Jan. 9, 2022
- James "Jim" Moore ('78, '87) Jan. 21, 2022
- Alan Brown Oliver ('78) April 11, 2022
- Donald A. Stoffa ('78, '84) Dec. 8, 2021
- Randy Duane Bitting ('79) Jan. 30, 2022
- Daniel G. Faucett ('79) Dec. 15, 2021
- Kevin Tedlock ('79, '80) Nov. 21, 2020
- Michael J. Tuley ('79) March 19, 2022

1980s

- John Francis Kelley ('80) March 17, 2022
- Joseph Randy Lillard ('80) March 18, 2022
- Stuart Shawn McDanel ('80) Jan. 19, 2022
- Timothy Mark Schwegler ('80, '86) April 14, 2022
- Anthony B. Fairlie ('82) Jan. 24, 2022
- Thomas Wesley Fuhrman ('82) Jan. 2, 2022
- Daniel E. Carroll ('84) Nov. 3, 2021
- Samuel Donald Frank ('84, '86) Dec. 18, 2021
- Lynette I. Schafer ('84) March 21, 2022
- Edward Patrick Walker ('85) April 11, 2022
- Rose (Huggins) Grinstead ('86) Dec. 30, 2021
- Kirk D. Kribbs ('86) Jan. 13, 2022
- Sue Ann (Rediger) McElwain ('86) Jan. 8, 2022
- Mary Catherine Bowen ('87) Aug. 8, 2021
- Todd Wayne Burton ('87) Jan. 21, 2022
- Wilbur "Sheldon" Davis ('87) Feb. 17, 2020
- Christian Theodore Hegg ('87) April 1, 2022

- Charles Steven Marlay ('88) Jan. 25, 2022
- Kenneth Duane Richardson ('88) Nov. 3, 2021

1990s

- Gregory "Greg" L. Beasecker ('90) Jan. 18, 2022
- Jewell Leigh (Rodgers) Curtis ('90) Feb. 15, 2022
- Michael "Mike" E. Lance ('90) Feb. 4, 2022
- Melinda McEndarfer ('90) March 18, 2022
- Brian "Chomps" D. Vahlkamp ('92) Nov. 13, 2021
- David Eric Dumser ('94) Sept. 17, 2021
- Christopher Dean Rusk ('94) Dec. 23, 2021
- Staci Jo Garvin ('98, '00) March 1, 2022

2000s

- Andrea E. (Cluck) Annaba ('08) Aug. 14, 2020

2010s

- Keenan Alexander Schott ('13) July 19, 2021

2020s

- Rachel Elizabeth Telgemeier ('21) Nov. 1, 2021

ATTENDED

- Norma Annetta (Edmondson) Arnold Dec. 13, 2021
- David Dean Bolick March 23, 2022
- Sibyl Emogene "Jean" (Trimble) Gillespie Feb. 24, 2022
- James R. Reinhard Nov. 11, 2021

FACULTY AND STAFF

- Donna Jolene (Sullivan) Combs Ellsworth March 22, 2022
- Walter Franklin Farrell May 9, 2012
- Dennis Daniel Markeson March 3, 2022
- Kenneth M. McGuire Jan. 1, 2022
- Irma Letitia (Walls) Muir Feb. 15, 2022
- Robert Victor Schnucker ('53) March 28, 2022
- Timothy Mark Schwegler ('80) April 14, 2022

FRIEND

- Eileen Esther (Hoffman) Coleman April 14, 2022





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