Truman State University Press Plans 20th Anniversary Celebration

Truman State University Press (TSUP) will be commemorating its 20th anniversary with several special events at Truman Nov. 13-17, 2006. The University Press was established in 1986 to publish high-quality scholarly books in the humanities and social sciences. The Press now publishes titles in American studies, early modern studies, and poetry.

Press Week events will include a faculty luncheon, a book-signing by several TSUP authors, a publishing career presentation for students, and a dinner celebration open to all. Throughout the week information about TSUP, publishing careers, and internships will be available at the publicity table on the main floor of the Student Union Building. The faculty luncheon will be held November 15 in the Spanish Room in the Student Union Building to give information about the Press, advising students interested in publishing, and offering tips for scholarly publishing. In coordination with the Career Center, the Press staff will talk about careers in publishing and how students can explore their interest and get some experience by working at TSUP. The week will end with an anniversary celebration dinner in the SUB Quiet Lounge on November 16 at 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner will cost $10 and will be available through the CSI Office, (660) 785-4222, csi@truman.edu.

For more information about the Press, the anniversary celebration, or books available please visit the TSUP Web site at https://tsup.truman.edu.

Students Select 2006 Educator of the Year

Associate Professor of Italian Marie Orton was named the 2006 Educator of the Year, an award that is sponsored by students. Orton began her career at Truman in 2000 and has taught at the Joseph Baldwin Academy, a summer program offered by the University that provides an opportunity for talented students to get a head start on their future college careers.

Orton received her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and both her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Chicago. Orton previously taught at Duke University. Having earned a Fulbright Research Fellowship, her primary areas of research are contemporary Italy and Italian cultural studies, autobiography, holocaust literature and immigration literature. Orton is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi and the adviser to the Italian Club (CIAO).

This year, 102 students nominated a record-breaking 66 faculty members for the Educator of the Year award. The eight-member student committee first narrowed the group down to 12 semi-finalists and then to six finalists. Finally, after reviewing the written responses by the nominated faculty members, getting input from the students in their classes and observing the faculty members in their classrooms, the committee selected this year's honoree. Students from Student Senate, the Pershing Society and Phi Kappa Phi serve on the Educator of the Year committee.

Associate Professor of Italian, receives the Educator of the Year award from Becky Hadley (left) at the banquet May 2.

Marie Orton (right), associate professor of Italian, receives the Educator of the Year award from Becky Hadley (left) at the banquet May 2.

Send a friend an ePostcard
http://greetings.truman.edu/
“It's been over 40 years since I was on stage at this great institution. Forty-two years ago, I received my degree from this college, and I was indeed proud. Today, I'm even prouder to say I'm an alum of Truman State University.”

— Howard Elsberry ('64)
President and CEO of Westlake Hardware Inc., from the commencement address he presented to Truman's 2006 spring graduating class, May 13, 2006

New Residence Opens its Doors to Students

The University’s new suite-style residence hall, West Campus Suites, was completed just in time for students to move in this fall. The four-story facility, which was constructed on the northwest edge of campus at the corner of Normal and First Streets, houses around 400 students in suites that consist of two 11’ 7.25” x 15’ 8.25” bedrooms, a 13’ x 11’ 7.25” common area, and a bathroom. Each suite also has a small kitchenette/sink area with space for dishes and a microwave situated just off the common area.

Some of the most popular amenities found in West Campus Suites include air conditioning and a convenience store located on the first floor. To view a photo gallery of Truman’s newest residence hall, visit http://reslife.truman.edu/facilities/photo_gallery.stm. To see the various stages of construction of West Campus Suites, visit http://webcam.truman.edu/.

The addition of the new residence hall was the first part of a comprehensive plan to enhance student housing on campus. With the opening of West Campus Suites, work has already begun on Missouri Hall which involves interior renovations and exterior building repairs, as well as plans for a 2,500-square-foot addition to the west side of Missouri Hall.

See Truman's Newest Residence Hall

West Campus Suites Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006
10:30 a.m.
South Entrance
West Campus Suites, corner of Normal and First Streets

West Campus Suites will be open for tours from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
As simple as that. And yet is it really that simple?

How do you come to love a university? Is it the buildings, the classes, the professors, or the students? For me, it’s all the above, combined with the feeling I get every time I step back on campus. I take a deep breath, look around, and realize I am home. I am exactly where I am supposed to be, and I couldn’t ask for anything more. To find the right college on the first try is rare in today’s society. Many times high school students are too overwhelmed by the drastic changes taking place in their lives to know exactly what they want in a college experience.

I know I didn’t. May 1st loomed like an execution date for me. The day I had to make the biggest decision of my life. My shot at a successful future rested on which college I attended. Without an Ivy League name on my resume, would I ever get into medical school? The truth is, the name doesn’t matter in the long run. What matters is that I make the most of my experiences. And Truman allows me to do that. I have the flexibility to balance my academics as well as my social life. I can be involved in any of a plethora of activities on campus and find myself wishing there were more hours in the day so I could be even more involved than I already am. My classes have yet to bore me, and I find myself challenged every day, constantly reaching for new levels of higher learning. My professors foster this need to learn with opportunities for personal interaction, not only in their offices, but in the laboratory as well. Every aspect of this University and its campus awes and inspires me. Truman State University is truly a hidden treasure that provides a small piece of heaven for all who call it home.

So how did I come to find this diamond in the rough? A funny story actually. I got a pamphlet from the Admissions Office, promising me no application fee. Basically, I figured it wouldn’t cost me anything to apply. So I did (proof all that money spent on advertising isn’t a waste). Then I got a letter asking me to interview for a sizable scholarship. It was at this point that I was forced to look at Truman as more than just another acceptance letter. I came to campus, had my interview, and spent the night with an overnight host.

Then I found out I had actually received the scholarship. Four years of undergraduate education for free, and a chance to study abroad! I really couldn’t logically turn down an offer like that. So I didn’t. I visited the campus again, knowing this visit was much more important than the last. Thankfully, I had a blast and Truman Week erased any doubts I still held. I had found my niche. What started as a completely financial decision turned out to be the best decision of my life.

I love Truman. As simple as that. And yet is it really that simple?

Ashley Rufus, a sophomore chemistry major/music minor from Chillicothe, Ill., was one of the students featured in the “Who Needs Harvard?” cover story that ran in Time magazine.
History Professor Receives Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching

Lynn Rose, associate professor of history, received special recognition from Gov. Matt Blunt during the luncheon at the 2006 Governor’s Conference on Higher Education in Columbia, Mo., where she was presented with the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Rose was one of 14 outstanding faculty members, each representing a Missouri college or university, to be recognized for her commitment to excellent education for Missouri citizens. Rose was chosen for her effective teaching, innovative course design and delivery, effective advising, service to the institutional community, commitment to high standards of excellence and success in nurturing student achievement.

Renovations Begin on Student Union Building

Signs of construction began appearing inside the Student Union Building this past August and will continue over the next three or four years as the facility is remodeled to enhance the physical environment and maximize available space. Last year, the Student Union Building served as a meeting location for more than 3,000 events, and Sujit Chemburkar, director of the Student Union, says that the new design will provide a space that is much more flexible in arrangement to allow for a myriad of set-ups, rather than the current layout which creates limitations. "Space that was once limited to a single purpose will serve as space with multiple uses, allowing us to cater to the needs of our students," says Chemburkar. "This not only allows us to better serve students, but all of our campus users."

The most impressive change will be the creation of a student organization complex within the building. "This will allow the groups that are housed in the Student Union to have shared resources and the required advisors all within one area," says Chemburkar. "We are hopeful that this complex will truly allow for collaboration and student development like never before." The student organization complex will be housed in the area currently occupied by the game room, the Center for Student Involvement, and the media area. The plan also calls for the addition of restrooms to the second level of the building — previously the only restrooms in the building were located on the first and third floors — and a public access elevator will be added to a central location. Chemburkar says that patrons can also expect to be more comfortable with a revamped HVAC system that will be more agile and responsive to heating and cooling requests.

Lounge space, a focal point for campus life, was one of the needs most cited by students, and the room formerly known as the Quiet Lounge will become an atrium for the building, with a new stairwell to the third floor and the entry point for the new elevator on the second level.

In addition, the Georgian Room will see a shift in scope. Previously, the considerable size of the room limited its function to banquet reservations. After the renovation, the space will be divisible into three spaces, two spaces, or one large space allowing the Student Union to accommodate more mid-sized groups rather than turning them away. "The Union staff is committed to providing the highest customer service and will strive to limit interruptions as much as possible," says Chemburkar, who notes that the renovation project will be done in three stages so that the facility can remain open. "We know that the renovation will be exciting and challenging and look forward to ushering in a new building in the upcoming years."

“Wear your Truman State University heritage proudly but remain humble. Humility is the root of the noble. Live a life of substance and not glitter. Remember to feast on the fruit, not the flower, of life.”

— Philip Slocum ('73)

Vice president for Medical Affairs and dean of Kirksville College Osteopathic Medicine-A.T. Still University, from the commencement address he presented to Truman’s 2006 summer graduating class, Aug. 4, 2006

Gov. Matt Blunt and University President Barbara Dixon (right) congratulate Lynn Rose (center) on receiving the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.
By the seventh or eighth grade, Stephanie Powelson had already decided she wanted to be a nurse, and at the age of 14, she began volunteering as a candystriper in a hospital to test the waters. "We got to do so much I thought I ran the place," says Powelson, whose duties ranged from working in obstetrics and pediatrics, to wheeling patients to discharge, to cleaning surgery equipment. After putting in 2,000 hours and earning a special volunteer badge, she was absolutely sure that nursing was the right career for her.

Today, as the director of Truman's nursing program, Powelson has the opportunity to see the same sense of excitement in the faces of students who pass through the doors of her office in Barnett Hall. She remembers feeling just like them when she was pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences. She went on to earn a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, followed by a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Spalding University in Louisville, Ky. Married to Tim Tucker, a Kirksville native, the couple eventually moved back to his hometown. Prior to joining the Truman faculty 10 years ago, Powelson had worked in public-health nursing and now enjoys having a chance to help develop young professionals.

Today, there is already a high demand for well-prepared nurses, and all signs point to an even greater demand for nurses over the next couple of decades. "The data indicates that we will have a 20 percent shortage of nurses by the year 2020 as all the baby boomer nurses retire," says Powelson. Consequently, this is also leading to a growing shortage of nursing faculty at nursing schools across the nation, and many states, such as Missouri, are beginning to look at creative ways to resolve the dilemma. "There's a pilot program in St. Louis and Kansas City that is encouraging nurses who have a fair amount of experience and who are pursuing a master's degree to become clinical faculty members at schools of nursing, and we've been approved to participate in the program," says Powelson. "These nurses have been in nursing for many years and have a lot to offer students."

The public holds nurses in high esteem, and the profession works hard to keep that reputation. "Nurses are held to a higher standard than the general public," says Powelson. "If you are coming out of surgery, you have to place your trust in the people who are caring for you." That's why the Board of Nursing evaluates the records of all nursing students, and each student is fingerprinted before he or she can sit for the licensure exam. Powelson explains that the Board is looking for anyone who might be a danger to the public. "Many organizations are there for the professional, but in the case of the Board of Nursing, they are there to protect the public."

The nursing program at Truman offers a community-based curriculum which means that the program recognizes that many people are getting their care at home or receiving outpatient care. "Our job is to prepare a generalist with a working knowledge of many areas and to prepare our nursing students to sit for the national licensure exam," says Powelson, who along with the rest of the nursing faculty, counsel students through each step of the process of becoming a registered nurse. The process begins with first getting a bachelor of science in nursing, then applying to the Board of Nursing to be approved to sit for the national licensure exam. Once they pass the licensure exam, they can begin practicing as a registered nurse.

Powelson advises students to choose their profession based on what they enjoy doing just like she did. "I've been a nurse for so long, it's just who I am."
Truman Recognized as One of the Best in U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review

For the 10th year in a row, Truman State University has been recognized as the No. 1 Public University in the Midwest Region-Master's Category by U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges 2007." Truman also was ranked No. 8 overall in the Midwest region among both private and public institutions. Truman is the only public university in Missouri to be included in the top 10 public university-master's ranking. The Midwest region category includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Truman was also highlighted as having two programs, the Senior Capstone and Undergraduate Research, which are considered outstanding academic programs that lead to student success.

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

Truman State University offers students an outstanding undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review College Guide's 2007 edition of "The Best 361 Colleges." Truman is among a select group of schools featured in the latest edition that looked at academic programs, institutional data, feedback from students at the schools, and visits to schools during the years. Opinions of independent college counselors, students and parents were also considered. Efforts were made to have a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character. Truman also ranked No. 5 in the category "Students Happy With Financial Aid." More than 97 percent of incoming freshmen receive a University scholarship and/or federal financial aid.

Only about 15 percent of the four-year colleges in America and two Canadian colleges are in the book. The book contains two-page profiles on each University listed.

Career Tips for the Real World

E-Mail and Phone Etiquette

By Lesa Ketterlinus
Director of the University Career Center

Here are some tips for utilizing e-mail and phones without derailing your career.

E-Mail

E-mail is a print communication — the things you write can have permanent implications. Stop to think whether that e-mail you're about to send could have negative ramifications. Is your message clear? Are you conveying only neutral or positive information? Make sure your spell-check feature is activated for e-mail; also carefully proof everything you send. Remember, that the e-mail you're about to send is a business document; it may be kept for some length of time, referred to often, or circulated to others.

Get to the point! People receiving your e-mails want to quickly know the point of your e-mail and any action you would like them to take. If your message is too long and the point is buried, don't be surprised if people don't respond, or respond in a way that is inconsistent with your intentions. If you're sending an e-mail to a large and/or important audience, have one or more colleagues proof your e-mail for content, tone, grammar, punctuation, spelling and capitalization (all caps means you're yelling).

Phone

When leaving a voice-mail message, be sure to indicate your name and telephone number clearly at both the beginning and ending of the message. Make sure you're speaking your number slowly enough so that someone can write it down without having to listen to your message multiple times.

Be brief! Get to your point quickly, or you risk having your message deleted before it concludes.

Two important considerations with cell phones: when to turn it off and having a professional (and less invasive) ring tone. When you are in meetings, at church, in a theatre, turn your cell phone off. If you're in doubt, you should probably turn it off. If you need to be available for an emergency, switch your phone to vibrate. If you must take a phone call during a meeting, be sure to leave the room completely; even in the back of the room, others can hear you.

Choose a ring tone that lets you know you have a phone call, without being too disruptive. Avoid the "1812 Overture," "Star-Spangled Banner," or the theme from "Friends" in favor of a simple straightforward ring.

Your communication skills speak volumes about your professionalism. Polish them up using these examples, and you'll do wonders for your career.