hen the Truman Board of Governors met on campus Feb. 5, they elected Sarah Burkemper ('92), Ruth Mach ('58) and Randa Rawlins ('79) as the Board’s new officers.

Sarah Burkemper from Troy, Mo., was selected as president of the Board. Burkemper is serving in her third term as the public administrator for Lincoln County (Mo.) and is a certified public accountant. She was first elected as the public administrator in 1996. She was re-elected in 2000 and 2004 and became a registered guardian in 2000. Burkemper was a Pershing Scholar and graduated summa cum laude in 1992. She received her juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 1982. She serves on the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges Council of Board Chairs.

In addition, a new member, Mark Wasinger, was recently appointed to the Board by Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt. Wasinger is a licensed attorney and is a partner in the law firm of Wasinger, Parham, Morthland, Terrell and Wasinger, L.C., in Hannibal. He received his bachelor’s degrees and his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Wasinger is a member of the 10th Judicial Circuit Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association and the International Association of Defense Counsel. He succeeds John Briscoe whose term has expired.

The Board approved an increase in tuition of 4.9 percent for Missouri undergraduates and 3.6 percent for non-Missouri undergraduates for the 2005-2006 academic year. In-state enrollment fees for full-time students will increase to $5,740, and out-of-state costs for full-time students will increase to $9,920. When combined with the designated fees, the tuition cost per semester for undergraduates in 2005-2006 would increase $165 (+6.0 percent) for Missourians and $205 (+4.3 percent) for out-of-state residents.

The Board also approved continuing the $95 per semester Student Recreation Center fee, an $80 per semester Student Union fee, a $32 per semester student activity fee and a $2 per semester fee to support student government.

At its December 2004 meeting, the Board set the room and board fee for 2005-2006. It will cost $5,540 per student for a two-person room at Ryle/Centennial, $5,380 per student for a two-person room at Missouri/Dobson/Grim and $5,455 per student for a two-person room at Blanton/Nason/Brewer.

The Magruder Hall construction project, which is now in its final phase, involved the complete renovation and expansion of the University’s science facility. At the end of the project, a “flip-book” will allow users to see the entire progress of the construction project.

Funds for the web cam project were provided by Truman parents through the annual Parents Council Project. Visit the web cam site at http://webcam.truman.edu/. In addition, the Truman web site features a variety of fun services including a virtual campus tour, electronic greeting cards, and Truman screensavers.
Students Raise Money for Tsunami Relief Efforts

Truman students made a significant contribution to tsunami relief organizations. Sodexho and the International Club led two separate and successful fund-raising events.

Sodexho, the University’s food service provider, implemented a food fast during the week of Feb. 28-March 4. Students living in the residence halls participated in the fast by abstaining from eating in the dining halls for a designated meal. The money that would normally be spent on that meal was then pooled into a donation fund.

Dennis Markeson, director of Sodexho and organizer of the food fast, said the event raised more than $2,700 to be donated to the Red Cross. Markeson said Sodexho enjoys working with students on worthwhile causes such as this. “I felt that it was important that we organize an effort in which all students living on campus could contribute,” said Markeson “I am pleased with the participation.”

The International Club also sponsored a date auction fundraiser Feb. 28 for tsunami relief and raised almost $910. This money will be donated to the Helabima Friendship Synopsis to help the surviving children of tsunami victims.

International Club member Dinisha Warusavitharana recommended this organization. Warusavitharana is an international student from Sri Lanka, where more than 40,000 people died in the tsunami. Warusavitharana lost two cousins in the tsunami.

Mark Your Calendar

Family Day
Oct. 8, 2005

Homecoming
Oct. 21-23, 2005

Student Journal

Three years ago, as I was investigating all of the many college options which were available to me, I came across Truman State University. More by accident than anything, I decided to investigate Truman because a fellow Missouri Scholars Academy alumna, Christie Hall, promised me all that I was looking for in an institution - small class sizes, endless opportunities for involvement, professors who really care, and a rigorous academic program.

Christie was wrong in her assessment of Truman. Truman State University is all she claimed and more... Three years later, I couldn’t be more grateful to Christie for the unassuming role that she has played in my life. I’m almost halfway through my experience here at Truman, yet I never go a day without being amazed at the research my peers engage in, the beauty of the campus, and the lifelong friends that I have made here.

The unique opportunities afforded to me here have shaped my life in so many ways. Serving on Student Senate, as a student ambassador, and as the social chair for the Society for Sino-American Studies has brought me numerous opportunities to serve those whom I live amongst, to share with others the “home” I’ve found here, and to engage in an organization which allows me to learn about my heritage. I never dreamed that I would be permitted to participate in such organizations. Not only was I permitted, I was encouraged to do so! My involvement in state-wide organizations, such as the Student Association of Missouri, would not have been possible had I attended a larger university.

Attending Truman has changed my outlook on life. I genuinely believe that the majority of people in the world are good people who want nothing more than the very best that life has to offer them. Although my outlook may seem unrealistic to others, I must say that Truman has taught me to take hold of my future and make it all that I can for myself and those that follow me.

Although my college experience up until this point has been great, I look forward to all that Truman has to offer me the remaining years of my tenure.

Justis Tuia, a sophomore political science major from Branson, Mo., shares his views on life as a college student.
Magruder Hall Construction Nears Completion

This year’s Homecoming activities will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Magruder Hall on Oct. 22 to celebrate the completion of the $26 million project. In August, the Magruder Hall Science Building Expansion and Renovation Project will conclude after more than three years of construction. Magruder Hall, which is named for former University president and former chemistry professor, Jack Magruder (’57), houses the Division of Science and was formerly known as Science Hall.

The project is currently in its final stage of construction and will be completed this summer. During phase one, square footage was added to the south and east sides of the building, and in phase two, the south half of the old building was renovated. Most recently, the north side of the old building was demolished during phase three and replaced with three new floors.

The end result is a three-story building that provides one of the finest science facilities at any university in the Midwest. Magruder Hall now includes 99,700 net square feet for the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Agricultural Science. Funding for this project came from a state of Missouri capital appropriation, University general funds, corporate and alumni donations, and a federal appropriation.

The project also includes plans for a new 1,800-square-foot planetarium and multimedia theater with a 40-foot domed ceiling and seating for 75 people. The planetarium-multimedia theater is being added to the north end of Magruder Hall, situated next to both the Student Union Building and Pickler Memorial Library. This unique facility will serve as a campus and community resource for digital educational presentations. Programs may include explorations of the solar system and nearby galaxies, lectures on Einstein’s theories of relativity, travel in earth’s major ecosystems, virtual tours of a human cell, examination of Greek and Renaissance artwork, listening to African music, and much more. Plans call for an optical star projector and a panoramic video digital projector, as well as state-of-the-art production equipment in two nearby rooms.

No similar facility is currently available in northern Missouri and southern Iowa, and the planetarium-multimedia theater will enhance Truman’s statewide liberal arts and sciences educational mission and strengthen the institution’s engagement in the regional community. The shell of the facility is now under construction (see photo), and additional funding will be needed for the equipment and furnishings for this facility. The estimated costs for the dome, projectors, lights, sound, and control systems, and the equipment in the adjacent production suite are around $1.5 million.

Admissions Web Site Has New Look

The University’s Office of Admissions launched a newly redesigned web site that features a variety of new services, as well as helpful information on tuition costs, financial aid, scholarships and the application process. The web site’s features include personalization options, special spotlights on Truman students and faculty members and an easier-to-navigate interface.

In addition to applying to Truman online, prospective students can create accounts for their own application process and personalize the Truman Admission web page to fit their needs. For example, they can create a “To Do List,” set up a campus visit, or apply for admission online. A chat function even allows students to chat live with a Truman admission counselor. Students, parents and guidance counselors are invited to use the site to get instant answers to their questions about Truman. The online instant messaging service can save money on long-distance phone calls and is available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Visit the web site at http://admissions.truman.edu/

University-wide Research Conference Boasts Successful Year

The 18th annual Student Research Conference was held on the Truman campus April 14. This year’s Conference, which is Truman’s university-wide celebration of student research, scholarship, and creative achievement, was a record year. The Conference included 311 presentations delivered by 391 student authors who were mentored by 160 faculty members.

The program included a terrific breadth of topics representing all of Truman’s academic divisions. Students presented their scholarly work in a range of presentation types, including oral papers, posters, performances, studio arts, and technology displays. In addition, expanding on the year’s campus theme of civic engagement, the Conference Plenary Address, titled “Undergraduate Research for the Public Good,” was presented by Elizabeth Paul, chair of psychology at the College of New Jersey. To view the full Conference program and all presentation abstracts online visit http://src.truman.edu.
Truman’s College Bowl Team earned top honors in the regional tournament at Wichita State University Feb. 18-20. The group took first place against their competition with a record of 11-1. The regional competition included the states of Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. Truman beat out the University of Kansas (Lawrence), Kansas State (Manhattan), Pittsburgh State, Southwest Missouri State University (Springfield), Washington University (St. Louis) and the University of Missouri-Columbia in tournament play. Team members include Matt Magruder, senior history major from Kirksville; Brian Baker, senior history major from Hannibal, Mo.; John Scognamiglio, senior history and mathematics double major from Eureka, Mo.; Kyle Hill, sophomore history major from Kansas City, Mo.; and Chris Halsey, junior chemistry major from Liberty, Mo.

The team’s first place finish earned them a spot in the National College Bowl Tournament in Seattle, April 22-24.

Sharing a Love of Literacy
By Sasha Rassi

As an education professor at Truman, Donna Rhinesmith champions the power of the written word in her quest to create strong readers.

The walls of Donna Rhinesmith’s Violette Hall office are lined with books of all kinds, with an especially large portion devoted to children’s books. When asked how her students would likely describe her, she replied, “Books and coffee.” Rhinesmith, a former Pershing Scholar graduated from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University) in 1978 with a BSE in elementary education and in 1979 with an MA in teaching of reading. She moved to Columbia, Mo., where she taught for nine years. While teaching, Rhinesmith also pursued a doctor of education degree from the University of Missouri, and after obtaining her doctorate in 1992, she moved back home to Kirksville and has been a member of the Truman faculty ever since.

As a member of the education faculty, Rhinesmith works in what she calls “a camaraderie.” Her current course load includes Psychology of Reading, Integrating the Language Arts, as well as supervising a number of master of arts in education (MAE) interns. “I’m really fortunate to be teaching something that I love,” says Rhinesmith, who has known her whole life what she wanted to do. She even remembers her third-grade teacher’s observation on her report card that she should be a teacher.

In addition to teaching at the University, Rhinesmith is excited about her other projects. Her current research interests include looking at the affective, motivational and enjoyment aspects of reading, and trying to create a generation of stronger readers, kids who love to read. But Rhinesmith is adamant about research in action, examining the evidence behind reports like the “No Child Left Behind Act” and the National Reading Panel, and being actively involved with these concerns rather than just reading about them.

In addition to belonging to the national chapter of the International Reading Association and serving as an advisor to the Student-Missouri State Teachers Association, Rhinesmith is also working on a local project known as the Parent Reading Connection, which is in its third year and provides after-school reading tutors which she proudly recognizes as having raised the reading series level of some children by as many as 3.5 levels in one month’s time.

As an education professor, Rhinesmith enjoys her relationship with her students. “I work with great students,” says Rhinesmith. “The MAE program is small enough that everybody knows your name.” She takes great pride in her career, noting that teaching really is a profession from which all other professions are drawn. With a rapidly and continuously changing profession, Rhinesmith relishes the opportunities afforded by having students in the field to observe. “I see lots of good teaching and research, and students bringing back real situations and good ideas,” says Rhinesmith.

Her love of reading is ubiquitous; she encourages her students to read and routinely places book orders with Scholastic and other book clubs to help her students build up their classroom libraries, even before they have a classroom of their own. In addition to her love of books and coffee, her other loves include her husband, Richard, her “motley collection of dogs” (Max, Comet and Lady), and the hobby of quilting.

Sasha Rassi is a senior English major/MAE student from St. Louis, Mo.
In March, University President Barbara Dixon, Vice President for Academic Affairs Garry Gordon, and Vice President for University Advancement Mark Gambaiana presented three faculty with the Walker and Doris Allen Fellowship. The recipients include Julia DeLancey, associate professor of art; Jeffrey Osborn, professor and convener (chair) of biology; and Priscilla Riggle, associate professor of English. Each of the recipients received a $10,000 fellowship in recognition of the contributions they have made to the success of Truman State University and its students.

DeLancey has been a member of the Truman faculty since 1995. She earned her bachelor's degree in art history from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and her master's and doctoral degrees in art history from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Osborn joined the Truman community in 1991. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in botany from Texas State University (San Marcos). His doctoral degree is from Ohio State University (Columbus).

Riggle, who has been teaching at Truman since 1995, earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in English from Truman. Her doctoral degree is from Bowling Green State University in rhetoric and writing.

The Walker and Doris Allen Fellowship for Faculty Excellence is available thanks to a generous gift from Walker ('39) and Doris Allen. The couple established the fellowship to recognize the central role of faculty in achieving the liberal arts and sciences mission of the University. Their gift was one of the largest outright gifts ever made to the Truman State University Foundation.

Walker Allen graduated from Truman State University (then Northeast Missouri State Teachers College) in 1939 with a bachelor of science in business education and is a former member of the Truman State University Foundation Board of Directors. Walker also completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University in 1963. He retired in 1983 from the University of Missouri Medical Center in Columbia, Mo., as associate director of fiscal affairs. Doris Allen also attended Truman from 1938-1939. The couple resides in Columbia, Mo.

Continuing a long streak of successes at the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) National Championship Tournament, students from Truman State University were once again at the top of their game at the 2005 Nationals at Texas Tech University (Lubbock, Texas), March 18-20. The Truman team was the runner-up to the National Champions from the University of California Berkeley in tournament sweepstakes. Seventy-one institutions competed in the tournament, in addition to international participants from Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Truman also continued its streak of elimination rounds successes, placing four teams in elimination rounds for the sixth consecutive year. Tyson Helder, senior communication and political science double major from Sioux Falls, S.D., and Samuel Hodge, freshman political science and communication double major from Blue Springs, Mo., reached the quarterfinals of the tournament, thus making them among the top eight teams in the nation (out of a field of 212 two-person teams). Sara Archer, freshman pre-business administration and pre-accounting double major from Riverside, Mo., and Matthew "Cody" Snyder, freshman political science and economics double major from Neosho, Mo., reached the double-octafinal round (the top 32 teams). The teams of Matthew Harms, senior economics major from Galesburg, Ill., and Ryan Walsh, senior philosophy and religion and communication double major from Cassville, Mo., and Todd Turner, freshman communication major from Chesterfield, Mo., and Stefani Wittenauer, sophomore communication and political science double major from Belleville, Ill., reached the triple-octafinals (top 64 teams). The tournament uses a gradual elimination process similar to the NCAA basketball tournaments. Teams must have a winning record to reach the elimination rounds. The eventual winner of the single-elimination process was Lewis and Clark College (Portland, Ore.) which took possession of the championship cup, earned by Truman in 2004.

Additionally, out of a field of 424 individual speakers, Helder ranked 13th and Hodge 16th. Truman also placed 16th in season-long sweepstakes, a system which measures year-long performance at invitational tournaments.
Students Present Research at State Capitol

Earlier this year, 20 Truman students traveled to the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City, Mo., to present posters displaying the research they have been conducting at Truman State University. In addition to the annual display of Truman research projects, members of the Kirksville community displayed information about special initiatives and unique elements about the Kirksville community.

Representatives from Truman State University, A.T. Still University of Health Sciences, Kirksville Regional Economics Development Inc., City of Kirksville, Adair County and the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce presented each legislator and statewide office holder with a unique print which contains images of a baseball and the United States flag, designed by Nathan Rueckert, a 2003 Truman graduate.

Political Science Professor Receives National Recognition

John Ishiyama, professor of political science and director of the Ronald E. McNair program, was named the 2004 Missouri Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. This national recognition program, established in 1981, rewards outstanding professors for their dedication to teaching, commitment to students and innovative instructional methods.

Ishiyama joined the faculty at Truman in 1990. He received his bachelor’s degree from Bowling Green State University and his master’s degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate from Michigan State University.

He was awarded the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003 and was selected as one of the 2003 class of Carnegie Scholars (awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching). On the Truman campus, he has been selected to receive the Walker and Doris Allen Fellowship of Faculty Excellence, as well as the William O’Donnell Lee Advising Award. He has been a nominee and finalist numerous times for Truman’s student-sponsored Educator of the Year award.

His teaching interests include comparative political development, democratization and political parties, and political methodology. He is the author or editor of three books, 64 refereed journal articles, four book chapters, 14 book reviews and numerous other publications. He is also a research fellow at the University of Kansas Center for Russian and East European Studies, a position he has had since 1999.

For 2004, there were winners in 45 states and the District of Columbia and four national winners. Ishiyama is the fifth Truman professor to win this statewide award.

Student Union Building Showcases More Student Art

The Student Union Building has again purchased art from several Truman students to add to their permanent collection displayed throughout the building.

Artwork by Kate Sherron, senior art and psychology double major from Florissant, Mo.; Lisa Payne, senior art major from Manchester, Mo.; and Ellie Goedeker, senior art major from Ballwin, Mo.; was chosen.

“We see the Union as a student’s building,” Sujit Chemburkar, director of the Student Union Building, said. “Adorning the Union’s walls with student art is just one of the ways this philosophy is reflected in our actions. The Student Union Advisory Board votes on the art, and it is a win-win situation for all those involved. The artwork is a constant reminder of what the students of Truman State University are capable of creating.”

Twenty Truman students presented poster displays of their research. Pictured front row, left to right: Patience Rhodes, Allie Giddings, Philip Esposito, Stephanie Amick, Alicia Lee, Anna O’Brien, Truman President Barbara Dixon and Rep. Bob Behnen.

Middle row, left to right: Paya Rhodes, Allison Doones, Jessica Menke, Leslie Contarini, Joshua Schaefter, Nina McCrate, and Jamie Pohman.

Back row, left to right: Katie Chierek, Ashlee Brown, Pam Bird, Andrew Schwendemann, Jerod Romine, Tiara Pettis and Stacy Lewis.