The Truman Board of Governors elected new officers during the Feb. 18 meeting that took place on campus. Ruth Mach of St. Louis, Mo., was elected president; Randa Rawlins of Columbia, Mo., was selected vice president; and Mark Wasinger of Hannibal, Mo., was selected as secretary.

Mach is retired after 20 years of service as principal of Meramec Elementary School in the Clayton, Mo., School District. She is now serving as an elementary assistant superintendent with the St. Louis Public Schools and working part-time for the Clayton School District as a specialist in the human resources department. A Truman graduate, she earned her master’s degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and her doctorate from Saint Louis University.

Rawlins is general counsel at Shelter Insurance Companies in Columbia, Mo. She was a Pershing Scholar at Truman, graduating summa cum laude in 1979, and she received her juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 1982. Rawlins serves on the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges Council of Board Chairs.

Wasinger is a partner in the law firm of Wasinger, Parham, Morthland, Terrell and Wasinger, L.C. in Hannibal, Mo. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree and bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1980. He received his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1983.

Kiplinger’s Again Names Truman as One of Nation’s Best Values

Truman State University received national recognition once again when Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine listed the University in its top 100 picks for Best Values in Public Colleges. Based on a pool of more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities, Kiplinger’s ranked Truman 23rd in the magazine’s 2006 survey of the 100 best values among public universities and colleges. The magazine also ranked Truman as the eighth best educational value for out-of-state students.

According to Kiplinger’s Web site, the rankings, which reflect schools that are academically strong as well as affordable, are based on several measures of academic quality, such as ACT or SAT test scores, admission rates, freshman retention rates, student-faculty ratios, and four- and six-year graduation rates. Kiplinger’s also ranked each school based on cost and financial aid factors. In addition to doing their own reporting, Kiplinger’s used data provided by more than 500 public, four-year colleges and universities to Petersons, a division of the Thomson Corporation.

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine provides information on paying for college, saving, investing, planning for retirement, and buying major purchases.

Changes in Tuition/Fees

For the 2006-2007 academic year, the Truman Board of Governors approved an increase in tuition and required fees of +3.9 percent for Missouri undergraduates and +4.8 percent for non-Missouri undergraduates. In-state enrollment fees for full-time students will be $5,970 (an increase of $115 per semester) while out-of-state costs for full-time students will increase to $10,400 (an increase of $240 per semester).

The Board also approved continuing the $95 per semester Student Recreation Center fee and an $80 per semester Student Union fee. Additional fees for students enrolled in six or more semester hours during the academic year will include a $34 per semester student activity fee, a $2 per semester student government fee, and a $25 per semester student health fee.

Continuing the summer tuition discount program for undergraduate on-campus classes was also approved to encourage enrollment by students seeking a double major, minors or simply wanting to accelerate their process. Summer per-credit-hour rates will be reduced by 15 percent again this summer.

The room and board fee for 2006-2007 will cost $7,020 per student in the new residence hall, $5,790 per student for a two-person room at Ryle/Centennial, $5,570 per student for a two-person room at Missouri/Dobson/Grim, and $5,675 per student for a two-person room at Blanton/Nason/Brewer.
“S o, what is a typical day like on the job?”

“What do you like most and like least about this career?”

“If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?”

The above questions sound like ones that we typically hear any time we are in an interview setting. However, in this case, these questions have a slightly different purpose. These questions weren’t asked in a formal interview setting, but rather in an informational interview setting.

Informational interviewing is just what the title implies. It’s carrying out a conversation with someone in a field that you are considering or might be interested in one day, and it is a great way to begin the all-important practice of networking. Ah, yes, networking. While networking might conjure up images of schmoozing with strangers at a cocktail party, networking is a career management technique in which you build relationships by sharing common goals or interests beginning with people you know.

Networking is essential in today’s “hidden job market” considering 80 percent of all job openings are not advertised, but are filled through positive word of mouth from personal referrals. We preach networking endlessly in the Career Center at Truman, and now students are seeing the importance, as well. Recently in the Student Senate vision document, Truman Tomorrow: Arete, several student leaders expressed how much they would like to see the University Career Center facilitate even more interactions between students and people outside the University. Right now we are meeting that goal by providing current Truman students with the opportunity to practice interview skills with former industry leaders through the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) program.

Another important way that the Career Center has been bringing current students and off-campus constituents together, involves alumni and friends like you who are willing to share your own work experience with students. Through the University’s Alumni Mentoring Database, current and former Truman students have an opportunity to contact other Truman graduates and ask questions about a current career field. We already have more than 200 mentors participating in the program, which allows the mentors to choose how they wish to help students. Mentors can give advice on areas such as career or industry information, career advising, employer information, graduate and professional school information, and even job shadowing.

While mentors are not responsible for finding students jobs or internships or writing their résumés and cover letters, they can assist a student by giving them advice on how appropriate their résumé might be for an entry-level position in their field or by sharing information on how they landed their first job or internship experience. You do not have to be an expert to be a mentor. All you need is a desire to give back to Truman and to be interested in the goals of our talented current students.

Last year several of our staff members in the Career Center scoured the Truman Review and contacted alumni from all classes and all majors spanning different career paths inviting them to be a part of the Alumni Mentoring Database. We had a tremendous response from our efforts and will be contacting alumni once again this summer. However, you don’t have to wait to be contacted to participate. If you are interested in finding out more information about the Alumni Mentoring Database, you can visit our Web site at http://career.truman.edu/mentor/connections.asp. To request a brochure on mentoring, call (660) 785-4353 or download the brochure at http://career.truman.edu/mentor. Please feel free to contact me, Dave Kincaid, directly at (660) 785-4566 if you have more questions about the mentoring program at Truman. We look forward to hearing from you.

[Mark YOUR Calendar...]

Aug. 4
Golden Alumni Celebration and Commencement Activities

Oct. 7
Family Day

Oct. 20-22
Homecoming

Oct. 21

Oct. 25
Career Expo
Executive-in-Residence Shares Professional Expertise with Students

The Division of Business and Accountancy welcomed Laura Patterson, of Austin, Texas, to campus in February as the 2006 Bentele/Mallinckrodt Executive-in-Residence. Patterson, a 1980 Truman alumna who is the president and co-founder of VisionEdge Marketing, Inc., shared her knowledge and expertise with students and presented lectures on “Customer Centricity: The Road to Success” and “Strategically Marketing Services to Build Value and Beat the Competition.”

Patterson’s company, VisionEdge Marketing, Inc., is a metrics-based marketing firm that specializes in helping organizations create a competitive advantage designed to attract, secure and retain profitable customers. Previously, Patterson served at the marketing helm for an enterprise software company, Evolution Technologies, and her customer service loyalty expertise was utilized in the development of a software tool for the financial services industry while at Alex Sheshunoff Management Services. Patterson spent 14 years at Motorola, Inc., where her customer acquisition programs helped propel the microcontroller division to number one in market share. In addition, Patterson championed and implemented the idea for the worldwide brand building and customer advocacy initiative “Powered by Motorola.”

The Bentele/Mallinckrodt Executive-in-Residence Program was established to bring outstanding members of the business community to meet with students on the Truman campus. The visiting executive meets with business students and faculty in formal and informal group sessions during the two-day campus visit. In addition, opportunities are given to members of the entire University to attend sessions on a topic or issue of interest to the broader University community.

The IMCERA Group endows the Executive-in-Residence Program at Truman. In recognition of the significant contributions that alumnus Raymond F. Bentele (’60) made as president and CEO of Mallinckrodt, Inc., the Raymond F. Bentele/Mallinckrodt Executive-In-Residence Program was endowed in the Division of Business and Accountancy by IMCERA in 1993. This endowment places special emphasis on examining how executives handle unique challenges inherent in a ‘real-world’ setting, giving students a better understanding of the pragmatic issues involved in the business world.
Partnerships with Community Colleges Ease the Way for Transfer Students

Truman State University President Barbara Dixon and Moberly Area Community College President Evelyn E. Jorgenson signed a transfer articulation agreement on March 6 that will make it easier for Moberly Area Community College (MACC) students who want to transfer to Truman to complete a bachelor’s degree.

Students will be better able to make a smooth transition from MACC to Truman and prepare for study in a wide range of academic majors.

“Students will be better able to make a smooth transition from MACC to Truman and prepare for study in a wide range of academic majors. This articulation agreement will allow for a very smooth transition for students from Kirksville and the surrounding area to Truman,” Dixon said. “We look forward to increasing the number of students from Moberly Area Community College.”

As course changes are made at either institution, the agreement will be reviewed to make sure the courses still comply with the terms of the original agreement. Truman has also signed transfer articulation agreements with The Metropolitan Community Colleges of Kansas City, Mo.; Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa; and St. Charles Community College in Cottleville, Mo.

Student Journal

Renesa Foronda, a senior communication studies major with a minor in Italian studies, from St. Louis, Mo., shares her study-abroad experience in Italy.

I’m a traveler, not a nomad en route all of life, but a passionate knowledge-hungry adventurer seeking to explore and experience new places and culture. My study-abroad journey took me to Florence, Italy, in 2005, during the spring semester of my junior year at Truman State University.

I chose Italy for a variety of reasons; the first being my discipline. As a communications major seeking a bachelor of arts, one must take four semesters of a foreign language. After completing my four semesters of Italian, I was halfway to the Italian Studies minor, therefore I decided to declare it my minor. I always knew I would study abroad at some point during my college career and initially the study-abroad program in Australia is what drew me to Truman State University, but once I had declared a minor in Italian Studies, it was obvious I would study in Italy.

During my first few weeks in Florence, Italy, I experienced culture shock and had to learn how to adjust. Italians lead a much more relaxed lifestyle compared to Americans, and patience was a virtue I had to practice often when going to the food market, shopping for clothes, and especially waiting for public transportation. Though I did not understand why there were various types, sizes and prongs of electrical outlets or why each store sold only one type of food (the bread store, the meat store, the cheese store), I grew to appreciate their culture.

The Italians’ slower pace of life encouraged me to do the same as I went about my day. I learned how to stroll to destinations instead of power walking, and I was able to enjoy the subtleties Italy has to offer. The sounds of Florence were often the chatter of friends on the street corner watching people pass, the zoom of Vespas (Italian motor scooters) and the click of stiletto heels on cobblestone of superwomen brave enough to travel in such style.

I automatically felt in awe of the art and architecture in Florence and the Roman foundations of the city intrigued my historical interest. I learned and understood the layout of the city and how all the streets revolve around the Piazza della Repubblica and how the Arno River played a factor in modifying the design of this Roman city. The sculptures and pieces of artwork I would stroll by on a daily basis always took my breath away because I saw, firsthand, works some would only see in textbooks.

The trivial, everyday occurrences are what I miss most about Italy. I look back fondly on the times I would stroll past the open market on my way to class or lounge in a piazza observing tourists and locals. I miss walking under the shadow of the towering Santa Maria del Fiore, better known as the Duomo, or cutting through the crowds and bustle of the Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge).

Often people ask me, “What is the one thing in Italy you miss that you cannot get here in the States?” My answer would always be the clouds. All over Italy, no matter what city I traveled to, the clouds were always consistent — alive, vivid and imaginative. I recall the times I would prop myself at the bottom of one of the many columns surrounding St. Peter’s Square in Rome and stare at the clouds. It was as if you could reach out and grab the cream-like substance and mold them into anything you wanted. It’s amazing how the same sky appears different all over the world.

Study abroad has impacted my life in many ways which even I did not realize at the time. After my four months abroad, I now know that “Coming of Age” happens more than once in a lifetime. As a graduating senior, the future causes me some anxiety. It is a feeling of not knowing what life will be like once I leave Truman, my home for the past four years, but I remind myself of Italy, where I stood on my own and survived. I discovered in myself heart, determination and strength I had never tested before. The experiences I had are priceless to me, the countless number of people I encountered, the amount of friends I made and the endless life lessons I will carry with me from this point forward. The irony of my travels is that I left “comfort and “home” to see, experience and immerse myself in a culture and place unknown to me, yet I rediscovered my passions and learned new characteristics and qualities within me.
All started with the classical guitar. Anthropology professor Robert Graber picked it up when he was 15, drawn to it because its harmonies mimicked the four-part congregational singing that surrounded him during his Mennonite youth. He discovered early on that if he made his voice his instrument, he’d be unable to create the complex chords that so appealed to him. “As a little kid,” Graber says, “I would sing the different parts in my head at the same time, and I would get frustrated because I’d have to oscillate.” Graber, after all, has never been one to force his enthusiasm to choose a single direction. His passions, like his melodies, prefer to harmonize.

Without fail, students’ comments on Graber’s passion for anthropology are what dominate student evaluations every semester. In lecturing, in leading discussions, even in presenting films to be viewed in class, his zeal for the subject lights up the room. But to call anthropology Graber’s sole fixation would be like trying to assign a single note to an intricate chord. His schooling, for example, began and ended with a focus on anthropology, but included a few valuable detours along the way. After graduating from Indiana University with a major in anthropology and a minor in English, he enrolled in an architecture and urban planning program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. A year of the program was enough to ensure that it wasn’t for him. He thought perhaps a career in music was his calling, so he auditioned and was accepted to a music conservatory in Milwaukee, where he’d be able to focus on the classical guitar. But one visit to the conservatory turned him off the idea. “It seemed extremely odd. It was in this ornate, old mansion that seemed alien and intimidating,” recalls Graber. “It just didn’t feel like my kind of place.”

At this point, Graber found that his path was bound to lead him full circle, right back to a doctorate in anthropology. The choice wasn’t by default; Graber had never really been able to get past the belief that the world needed anthropology’s continued growth. “There still seemed to be important contributions to be made to anthropology,” says Graber. “I believe it’s scientifically even less developed than a discipline like psychology.”

Graber’s deviations from anthropology can’t really be considered deviations in the typical sense at all, for he never really left them behind. His stint considering a career in classical guitar morphed into a dearly loved hobby and is now one leg on a triad of extracurricular passions (completed by reading poetry and competing in triathlons). Harkening back to his year as an architectural and urban planning student, his current research focuses on population pressure and the resulting growth of larger and larger societies. This research provided the inspiration for Graber’s latest book, *Plunging to Leviathan? Exploring the World’s Political Future*, due out this fall in its paperback version.

Anthropology just happened to be where he believed he could channel his infectious, multifaceted enthusiasm to benefit students who would one day be directly molding the greater good. Graber believes that his role as a professor, especially to those who are experiencing their first taste of anthropology, is not necessarily to shape future scientists or cajole them down a path to graduate school. No — his role is simply to instill a sliver of his own fervor into each of the students he teaches. “Most of these students won’t become anthropologists,” he points out. “But they will become citizens.” Citizens, one can only hope, with Graber’s same devotion to harmonies.

Renée Wachter has been selected for appointment as dean of the Business and Accountancy Division at Truman State University, and will begin her duties July 1, 2006.

Wachter comes to Truman from Montana State University where she serves as associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Business and founding director of The Bracken Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Business Education. She currently plays many prominent roles, including leading an initiative to expand opportunities for internships and business professionalization for students, promoting the enhancement of faculty development initiatives which facilitate excellence in pedagogy, and encouraging the provision of resources for the maintenance of a contemporary curriculum. She provides oversight and administration for academic programs, paying specific attention to continuous improvement in teaching, learning and scholarship.

Wachter earned a bachelor of science in business from the University of Kansas. She majored in marketing and took concentration work in mathematics. She went on to earn a doctorate in business from Indiana University with major emphasis in management information systems and additional studies in marketing and statistics. While at Indiana University, she was the director of the Groupware Computer Lab: Collaborative Work Laboratory, Planning and Policy Studies Program, in which she facilitated sessions in strategic planning, conflict resolution and brainstorming with profit and non-profit organizations and served as the liaison to business entities.

Subsequently, Wachter served as a faculty member and director of the Information Systems Option in the undergraduate business and master of business administration programs at Ball State University. She taught management courses in the traditional classroom setting as well as a satellite-based distance-learning format.

Wachter received an appointment to the position of associate dean of the School of Business and director of the Office of Graduate Business Programs at the University of Indianapolis where she functioned in several lead capacities at the school and university levels. Under her aegis, curricula for several master’s degree programs underwent restructuring and achieved accreditation under the Baldrige Quality Standard. She also organized the institution of specialized certificate programs for business professionals, custom on-site master of business administration programs for major corporations, a college credit course in finance and international business for gifted high school students, and served as the acting dean for a semester during a sabbatical leave of the dean.

The 38th Truman State University Phi Mu Alpha Jazz Festival presented alto saxophonist Dick Oatts and jazz pianist Mike Kocour in Baldwin Auditorium Feb. 25. The annual festival provides an opportunity for high school jazz ensembles to come together in a celebration of jazz music, and this year’s event revolved around an all-day jazz competition that brought in more than 25 bands from middle schools and high schools from Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Kansas.

"The closest cities that have live jazz of this caliber are St. Louis and Kansas City," said Barry Watson, chair of the Jazz Fest. "But once every year we are able to bring this music that is rich in culture and full of life to the city of Kirksville."

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, an honorary professional music fraternity, encourages and actively promotes the highest standards of creativity, performance, education and research in music in America. The Upsilon Phi Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia sponsors several events each year to promote music, including their annual jazz festival.