U.S. News & World Report Ranks Truman Among America’s Best Colleges for 11th Year

Truman State University has once again 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 2008.” This marks the 11th year in a row that Truman has garnered a top spot in this category. Truman is the only public university in Missouri to be included in the top 10 public university-master’s ranking in the Midwest region. Truman also was ranked No. 8 overall in the Midwest region among both private and public institutions and was recognized for having undergraduate research programs that lead to student success.

Truman Listed Among Nation’s Best Values


Truman was also ranked among the nation’s 100 best values in public colleges published annually by Kiplinger’s magazine. The publication, which judges schools based on academic quality, cost, and financial aid, ranked Truman 26th.

Truman Named in Peace Corps’ Ranking of Schools Producing Volunteers

For the first time, Truman has made an appearance in the Peace Corps annual rankings of schools producing volunteers for the organization. Truman, which was ranked 25th on the list of medium-sized schools producing Peace Corps volunteers, currently has 20 alumni serving as Peace Corps Volunteers. Other schools listed in the top 25 include University of Virginia, Georgetown University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Notre Dame, Brown University, and Yale.

— Truman alumnus Mike McClaskey (’85), senior vice president and chief information officer for EchoStar Communications, from the Commencement address he presented to Truman’s graduating class in Pershing Arena on Dec. 15, 2007.

Read the Truman Today weekly newsletter online! http://trumantoday.truman.edu
AroundTHEquad 4/14/08 4:37 PM Page 3

New Officers and Members on Board of Governors

The Truman Board of Governors installed new officers and welcomed four new members. The new officers include Mark Wasinger, of Hannibal, Mo., chair; Cheryl Cozette, of Columbia, Mo., vice chair; and Matt Potter (‘96), of St. Louis, secretary. The new members include Mike Greenwell (‘83) of Shelbina, Mo.; Karen Haber, of Kansas City, Mo.; John Hilton (‘02), of Alexandria, Va.; and John Siscel III, of St. Louis.

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

Cozette serves as an adjunct professor in educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia and as a special consultant to the eMINTS National Center for programs related to school administrators. She graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in history from Kansas City College and Bible School. She received a master of arts degree in elementary education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and did further coursework in educational administration at Truman State University. Cozette received her doctor of education in educational administration (curriculum and instruction, general administration) from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Potter is the deputy Democratic director for the City of St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners. He graduated magna cum laude from Truman State University with a bachelor of arts degree in English and a minor in Latin in 1996. He received his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 1999.

Greenwell is a partner in the law firm of Greenwell & Wilcox. He holds a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Truman State University and a juris doctorate from the University of Dayton. He previously served on the Missouri Ethics Commission and currently serves on the board of governors of the Missouri Bar Association.

Haber, who has taught at the Park Hill School District for 30 years, is a Spanish and French teacher at Park Hill High School. She holds a bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) and a master’s degree in education from University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Hilton is currently employed at Patton Boggs LLP in Washington, D.C. Previously, he served as a law clerk to Judge Duane Benton on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in Kansas City, Mo., where he also served as president of the Kansas City Federalist Society lawyers chapter. Hilton earned a bachelor of arts in political science from Truman graduating summa cum laude in 2002, and he received his legal training at Harvard University’s School of Law.

Siscel retired as executive vice president for the Mechanical Contractors Association of Eastern Missouri. He served 10 years as the executive vice president of three related trade associations – the Plumbing Industry Council, the Plumbing Contractors Association, and the Missouri Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors Association – and as a professional educator, he served 10 years as a superintendent, principal, and teacher in various Missouri public schools. He has also served as the administrator and CEO of a residential care facility for handicapped children, a consultant for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and assistant to the director of the City of St. Louis Health Division. He holds a bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s in education administration from the University of Missouri–St. Louis and a doctorate in education from the University of Missouri–Columbia.

Athletic Training Major Added to Truman’s Program of Study

For the last 20 years, Truman has had an Athletic Training Education Program, and in fall 2007, the program began offering a new athletic training major.

“The stereotypical athletic trainer is the person who runs onto the field or court when an athlete gets injured,” says Michelle Boyd, head athletic trainer at Truman. “But athletic trainers also work in factories, with ballet companies, and at sports medicine clinics.”

The unique program prepares students to successfully pass the BOC certification exam and enter the field of athletic training as a certified athletic trainer. In the classroom, athletic training majors study injury evaluation, rehabilitation, anatomy, physiology, and biomechanics. Outside the classroom, students receive hands-on experience working with Truman’s 21 varsity sport teams. “We act as medical first responders to varsity athletes and work with a variety of sports,” says Nichole Friederich, a senior from Belleville, Ill.

Students also complete internships with hospitals, high school sports camps, and professional football and baseball teams.
Regina Myers Morin: Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

Truman alumna Regina Myers Morin ('73, '83) assumed the role of Truman State University’s new associate vice president for enrollment management on Jan. 17, 2008.

“Ms. Morin is known throughout the state and throughout the nation for her work in the field of enrollment management,” said University President Barbara Dixon. “We are very fortunate to have someone with her expertise and background in this critical position.”

Morin, who was selected after a national search, is a graduate of Truman State University, where she received her bachelor of science in education in 1973 and her master of arts in 1983. She began her career in the field of admission at Truman State University where she spent a total of 13 years serving first as an admission counselor, then an assistant director of admission, and finally the associate director of admission. From October 1994 to May 1997, Morin served as the director of transfer enrollment at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Since May 1997, Morin had served as director of admissions at Columbia College in Columbia, Mo.

Troy Paino: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Effective July 1, 2008, Troy D. Paino will begin serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs. Paino currently serves as the dean of the college of liberal arts at Winona State University, a position he has held since 2004.

“I am excited that we were able to attract such a highly qualified applicant to join Truman’s leadership team,” said University President Barbara Dixon. “Dr. Paino brings a wonderful balance of vision and creativity along with significant teaching and administrative experience to the position.”

Paino began his career at Winona State University in 1997 as an assistant professor of history. He served as director of the paralegal program from 1997-2004, co-founder and director of the law and society program from 1999-2004, and interim dean of the Darrell W. Krueger Library from 2005-2006. He was promoted to the rank of professor in 2007.

Paino’s educational background includes a bachelor of arts degree in history and philosophy from Evangel University in Springfield, Mo., a juris doctorate from Indiana University School of Law, and a master of arts and doctor of philosophy, both in American Studies, from Michigan State University. Prior to arriving at Winona, Paino worked as a partner in the law firm of Bookwalter and Thomas in Indianapolis, Ind., from 1988-1991, and subsequently served as a teaching assistant and then instructor at Michigan State University from 1992-1997.

Former Fire Station to House Ruth Towne Museum and Visitors Center

Construction has begun on the brick building on the northeast corner of Franklin and Normal Streets which formerly housed the Kirksville Fire Department. The renovation of the building calls for converting the old fire station into the Ruth Towne Museum and Visitors Center and will house museum displays and the University’s Office of Admission. The project will be financed through a combination of private gifts and University funds.

The naming gift was received through a $1 million bequest to the university from Ruth Warner Towne. A portion of Towne’s bequest was earmarked for construction, with the majority designated as an endowment to provide a lasting resource for museum operations and improvements. Towne, who was professor emeritus of history and dean emeritus of graduate studies at Truman, died in 1998.
Romance Language Major Now Offered

Starting this year, a new Romance language major began introducing students to a whole new world of language, culture, and literature. The Romance language major is an innovative interdisciplinary major with optional courses that include French, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, Spanish, and Ancient History. “It’s distinct from a Spanish and French major because students will explore the connections among the different languages in the Romance language family,” says Tom Capuano, professor of foreign language.

Another benefit of the Romance language program is that it provides a form of cross-fertilization in the classroom. “Students interested in how Latin changed through the centuries in the Mediterranean will be interacting with students studying post-colonial issues in Africa, Asia, and Latin America,” says Capuano. “And those students will be in classes with others interested in international business, international relations, translation/interpretation, and teaching foreign languages.”

Truman student Anna Haynes, a sophomore from St. Louis, says she has been interested in Spanish since the seventh grade, and she started taking Portuguese as a freshman at Truman. “When Dr. Capuano told us about the new Romance languages major, I became excited at the prospect of picking up a few more languages,” says Haynes, who plans to pursue a career that involves travel or living abroad.

Radio Station Goes Hi-Def

After being off the air for several months, 88.7 The Edge kicked off the new year broadcasting in high-definition from a new location. KTRM, which is the student-run Truman State University radio station, had been off the air since May 2007 due to the station’s move from the Student Union Building to Barnett Hall 1217 and issues getting the station’s new transmitter and equipment installed. The new transmitter allows for the station to be broadcast in HD (high-definition), and KTRM is one the first stations in northeast Missouri to broadcast digital signals.

The radio station resumed its alternative format offering news broadcasts, live remote broadcasts, live sports broadcasts and specialty shows such as jazz, hip-hop, metal and showtunes. To listen to KTRM live through the station’s Internet stream, go to http://ktrm.truman.edu/.

Professional Development Institute Established

Preparing students for a smooth transition to a happy and successful life after graduation is the goal of a new program being offered by the Career Center, a division of Student Affairs. The first Professional Development Institute class of junior students will begin fall semester of 2008 with members who have demonstrated a strong desire to grow professionally, leadership potential, and the motivation to participate in the two-year program.

The Professional Development Institute, which was developed by Career Center Coordinator Polly Matteson, consists of workshops, guest speakers, and innovative activities from which members may choose. Participation in 12 sessions is one of the requirements for successful completion of the program. Topics are varied and include issues related to the job as well as money management and work-life balance. Pre-registration for classes will be open to PDI members first and then opened to the general student population for registration. Funding for the PDI is limited at this point, but there are great opportunities for assistance from individuals and groups who see its value.

After successful completion of the two-year program, PDI participants will be recognized with a graduation reception in their honor and a notation on their co-curricular transcript. The ultimate vision is to have reunions of PDI graduates, a database of past graduates, and opportunities for students to connect with professionals in many career fields through involvement in the program.

Check out the Professional Development Institute website at http://pdi.truman.edu.
The Early Literacy Lab (ELL) was founded in 2003 by Truman State University and the Scottish Rite. It’s located on the second floor of Barnett Hall where communication disorders students, such as myself, have the opportunity to help children with delayed literacy skills. In the ELL, these children can get the services they need to become better readers and more successful students, and the program also places a strong emphasis on preventing reading delays.

Upon starting graduate school last fall, I was awarded the ELL Fellowship which has given me the chance to be really involved in the Lab. I was able to get first-hand experience working with delayed readers. I was also able to design a research project on the subject of early literacy skills in preschoolers, which has become an area of interest for me. My experiences in the ELL have allowed me to develop this interest more fully, and I know that it’s something I want to pursue when I graduate and start my career.

This fall, Phi Kappa Phi and the Communication Disorders Association organized a book drive to create a lending library in the ELL. It was so exciting to be involved in a project such as this, because I know a lot of kids will benefit from it. Through donations from Truman parents, faculty, and local families, we collected more than 1,400 children’s books. These books will soon be available for families to check out, and I hope many will take advantage of this new resource.

I’m so fortunate to have the opportunity to utilize the library, as I know it is an ideal context for me to continue learning about preschool literacy. I’ve always loved reading and working in the ELL has shown me that I can turn that into a potential career.

Reading is a skill that we use every day. It’s integrated into nearly every aspect of our daily lives and most of us take it for granted; we quickly and easily read street signs and e-mails without even thinking about it. However, reading is actually a very complex process, and many children struggle with it.

Literacy therapy can help kids before they fall behind in school or face the social consequences of being a poor reader. This is why the ELL is so important, and I’m so glad that I got to be a part of it during my time here at Truman. It has taught me so much and helped prepare me for my future.
What attracted you to teaching at Truman?
Truman’s reputation as an institution with a strong commitment to education in the liberal arts tradition was a strong draw for me, as was the outstanding reputation of its graduates. It’s also a place where faculty themselves are continually growing as scholars by engaging in research and other scholarly activity alongside their students.

What do you think makes Truman unique?
No other school that I know of makes so many opportunities available to its students. Its study-abroad programs, interdisciplinary studies programs, the countless opportunities for undergraduates to be involved in research with faculty, and Truman’s idyllic setting make Truman a wonderful place to be a student and a teacher.

How do you involve undergraduate students in your research?
I hook a student into one of my research groups to learn about the group’s overarching goals and some of the questions that are within reach of an undergraduate new to research. A student could find himself or herself writing a plug-in or stand-alone application in Java or Python, studying the mathematics or statistics behind a scheme for detecting the ultrasonic calls for bats, in the laboratory imaging cellular networks, or in the field chasing bats.

What do you consider to be your greatest professional accomplishment?
My involvement in Truman’s Mathematical Biology program is the professional achievement that is most satisfying to me. This program brings together faculty in biology, statistics, computer science, and mathematics to identify research questions that are best illuminated through an interdisciplinary approach. Cross-disciplinary teams of faculty and undergraduates then pursue these questions together.

What do you do for fun in Kirksville?
When I can, I play Ultimate Frisbee with faculty and students, mountain bike around Thousand Hills State Park, and listen to live music at the Round Barn or the Dukum.

Jason Miller
Associate Professor of Mathematics, College of Arts & Sciences

Education
B.A. Mathematics from St. Olaf College
Ph.D. Mathematics from the University of North Carolina

Interests
Mathematical biology, singularity theory and the geometry of functions, image analysis and shape description

No other school that I know of makes so many opportunities available to its students.