Leading the Way for University’s First Comprehensive Campaign

Truman State University has launched a $30 million comprehensive fundraising campaign, the first-ever in the university’s 141-year history. “Bright Minds Bright Futures” will raise private gift resources to address key priorities and propel Truman as the premier public liberal arts and sciences institution in the nation.

“Truman is dedicated to a very ambitious vision – to become the nation’s premier public liberal arts and sciences university, offering students the quality of education and experiences comparable to well-known private schools but at a public price,” Truman President Barbara Dixon said.

“Truman students are exceptionally bright and talented. They come to campus highly motivated and eager to learn. The experiences inside our classrooms, on campus and through involvement in co-curricular activities provide a solid foundation for personal and professional success.”

In all, Truman seeks $30 million in gift commitments to provide more opportunities for students, maintain our distinctiveness and respond to increasing fiscal challenges. The $30 million campaign is a major component of Truman’s strategic plan and vision to become the nation’s premier public liberal arts and sciences university. The campaign will provide greater scholarship resources and generate support for student scholarships, student enrichment initiatives, faculty development, and enhancements to the athletic program.

Chuck Foudree (’66), who retired in 1999 as executive vice president of finance for Harmon Industries, is serving as chair of the Campaign Steering Committee.

Truman officially began the advanced gifts phase of its campaign on July 1, 2006, and has generated over $8 million in commitments as of March 31, 2008. The public phase of the effort is projected to take place in the fall of 2008 or spring of 2009, with the campaign set to close on June 30, 2011.

Other Campaign Gift Commitments

$1 Million for University’s First Professorship in Science

Greg Gerhardt, a 1979 Truman graduate who is one of the nation’s foremost researchers on Parkinson’s disease, has made a planned commitment of $1 million to establish Truman State University’s first-ever endowed professorship. Gerhardt pledged $1 million through his estate to establish the Greg A. and Paulette C. Danielle-Gerhardt Endowed Professorship in Science in memory of his late wife, Paulette, who passed away in May 2007.

The professorship is designed to recruit and retain eminent faculty and to support the teaching, research and professional activities of the professorship incumbent beyond traditional levels of university support. It will be designated for a professor in chemistry or biology and preference given for those teaching or researching in neuroscience. Endowment earnings may also be used to strengthen the chemistry and biology departments through course development, lecture-ships, graduate assistants, equipment, technology, and salary enhancement of the recipient.

Gerhardt is a professor of anatomy and neurobiology at the University of Kentucky and is also the director of UK’s Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Disease Research Center, one of 12 such facilities in the country. For the past 25 years, Gerhardt has focused his research efforts on Parkinson’s disease.
$1 Million for Scholarship Fund to Assist Military Families

Truman alumni John “Mitch” Teal ('78) and Denise (Davidson) Scriven (’54) have pledged to make the Mr. and Mrs. John M. Teal Scholarship one of the University’s largest with a $1 million commitment through their estate plans. The scholarship will be created with a cash gift from the Teals and matched dollar for dollar by Mitch Teal’s employer, First Energy Corporation.

The couple designed the scholarship to offer support to Truman students who are honorably discharged veterans from any branch of the armed services and children of military personnel who have been killed or have become permanently disabled in the line of duty.

Mitch Teal served three years of active duty in the Army in Germany, and in 1975, he used the GI Bill to enroll at Truman (then known as Northeast Missouri State University) and continued to serve as a member of the local National Guard unit. After graduation in 1978, he received a master’s degree in regional and city planning from the University of Oklahoma and in public administration from the University of New Orleans, La. He serves as a senior emergency response specialist with First Energy, the nation’s fifth-largest investor-owned electric system.

Don Scriven, who began his teaching career as a Truman economics professor, later served the state of Missouri in various capacities, including associate director of finance for the Missouri Commission for Higher Education. He resumed his teaching career as professor of accounting systems and director of business computer education at Northern Illinois University.

Don Scriven served as a professor of management and director of doctoral programs in business at Northern Illinois University. She directed and authored pioneering research to define the components of word processing and office administration. She has also authored multiple books and received a distinguished service award for outstanding service to business education.

$30,000 to Benefit Accounting Program

Duane Hercules, a 1982 Truman graduate, and his wife, Joy, have made a $30,000 commitment to benefit the accounting program in the School of Business. The Duane and Joy Hercules Family Accounting Fund will award two $2,500 scholarships each year to accounting students from St. Louis or St. Charles counties. In addition, the fund will produce a $1,000 faculty award to an accounting faculty member based upon excellence to the profession, service to students and a positive impact on the Truman campus. The faculty award will be selected by the dean of the School of Business.

A native of St. Charles County, Duane Hercules earned an accounting degree from Truman in 1982. He started his accounting career with Coopers and Lybrand, and earned a C.P.A. designation. In 1984, Hercules joined Safety National Casualty Corporation and currently serves as the firm’s executive vice president of business development, chief financial officer and treasurer. He is a shareholder of the corporation and helped guide its merger with the New York Stock Exchange-traded Delphi Financial Group in 1996.

$200,000 for Student Emergency Fund

Don Scriven, a 1950 alumnum and former Truman economics professor, and Jolene (Davidson) Scriven, a 1954 Truman graduate, have made a $200,000 cash and deferred gift commitment to create a special endowment fund that will provide a helping hand to students facing a medical or family emergency.

Students in good academic standing who demonstrate a financial hardship will be eligible to apply for the Don and Jolene Scriven Emergency Fund to assist with unforeseen emergencies or crises. Students who receive grants will not be required to repay any portion of the grant, but will be encouraged to contribute to the principal of the fund as Truman alumni.

When the fund balance reaches $200,000, the administrative committee may also consider interest-bearing emergency loans to full-time faculty members for the purpose of paying moving expenses to the Kirksville community from a distance greater than 500 miles or for emergency medical expenses incurred by a faculty member or his/her immediate family. The terms and repayment provisions will be determined by the administrative committee.

Don Scriven, who began his teaching career as a Truman economics professor, later served the state of Missouri in various capacities, including associate director of finance for the Missouri Commission for Higher Education. He resumed his teaching career as professor of accounting systems and director of business computer education at Northern Illinois University.

Jolene Scriven served as a professor of management and director of doctoral programs in business at Northern Illinois University. She directed and authored pioneering research to define the components of word processing and office administration. She has also authored multiple books and received a distinguished service award for outstanding service to business education.
Boeing Provides Support for Math and Science Teacher/Scholars Program

Boeing has partnered with Truman State University in a special initiative designed to increase the level of academic achievement in mathematics and science among Missouri high school students. The Boeing Teacher-Scholars for Advanced Study in Mathematics and Sciences is a $75,000 scholarship fund that will provide special preparation for 40 teachers in Truman’s Advanced Placement (AP) program.

Missouri teachers of mathematics and science, with focus in St. Louis schools, are eligible to participate in the program. Participants will be chosen by a team of Truman State University education professors and selected on the basis of interest and commitment to the program and the needs of the teachers’ home school districts.

Boeing Teacher-Scholars will complete a weeklong program of study designed to prepare them to develop and implement Advanced Placement (AP) classes in their respective high schools.

Funds from the Boeing gift will cover tuition, travel and materials expenses for each participant. Upon completion of the training, teachers will devise a plan to offer at least one AP class in their school, and the new offering will be included in the school’s curriculum.

“This program will help improve mathematics and science education by providing teachers with high quality professional development and provide students with access to demanding classes,” said Sam Minner, dean of the School of Health Sciences and Education at Truman. “Students enrolled in AP classes are exposed to a rigorous and demanding curriculum, and they often go on to enroll in even more advanced math and science classes in postsecondary education; the result is higher achievement and stronger national performance in math and sciences.”

The Boeing Company has become the university’s largest corporate donor and is a substantial employer of Truman graduates. Nearly 250 Truman alumni are currently serving the company in areas such as finance and accounting, information technology, supplier management, procurement and software engineering.

Bohon Gift Increases Study-Abroad Opportunities

A growing number of students are including study abroad in their Truman experience, and Stan and Doris (Pickens) (*43) Bohon, of Kirksville, Mo., have established an endowed fund designed to assist students who participate in the university’s renowned study-abroad program. The fund was established by the Bohons in honor of the couple’s association with Truman State University and to provide greater access to study-abroad opportunities for students. The Bohons designed the fund to assist current students who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, are natives of one of the original 25 counties in the Northeast region of normal schools, and have a record of service in civic, church, and school activities.

Doris Bohon is a 1943 graduate of Truman and served two terms on the Foundation Board of Directors. Stan Bohon operated a dental practice in Kirksville for many years.
Wrestling Program Receives Record Gift

Norman Vogt (left) presented a $10,000 check to Wrestling Coach David Schutter (right).

The Truman wrestling program was the recipient of a $10,000 gift by Antonia Fabricators Inc. The company, which is located in Imperial, Mo., specializes in the complete fabrication of carbon steel and alloy metal and is owned by Norman and Doris Vogt.

“We are very appreciative of the significant investment the Vogt family is making to the Truman wrestling program,” said Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering, who believes the gift to be the largest single donation in the history of Truman’s wrestling program.

Truman Wrestling Coach David Schutter also expressed thanks for the gift. “In today’s college athletics, strong leaders are needed from among the alumni, parents and wrestling fan-base in the state of Missouri,” said Schutter. “The Vogts have stepped up to the mat and made a difference in the history of Truman’s wrestling program.

Carrying on the Tradition of Helping Fellow Bulldogs

Jerome “Jerry” Walker, a 1969 Truman alumnus, made a gift to the Truman State University Foundation to establish the Jackson-Walker Memorial Track Grant. The grant will be awarded to a Truman student who runs the 400 or 800 relay, which were Walker’s best events when he was a member of the Bulldog track and field team. Walker and teammates Fred Banks, Jerry Krumeich and Ron Davis still hold Truman’s indoor record for the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:14.34 which the team ran in 1967.

Looking back, Walker recalled how short his personal funds were during his college days. He also has not forgotten the role that Kenneth Gardner, who served as head track coach from 1951-1988, played in Walker’s development as he grew from what he described as an immature young man from the East Coast to a young man with a family and an appreciation for the size and cultural scope of this country.

“We depended upon the generosity and creativity of Coach Gardner and others along with our own hard work and sacrifice to ensure that we could make it through,” said Walker.

“The Jackson family was very helpful to me as well,” said Walker. “The wisdom and perseverance taught by Roy and Aleetha Jackson and the example of achievement by Kay Jackson were immeasurable in my success.”

After receiving a bachelor of science in education in 1969 and a master’s degree from Truman in 1971, Walker taught high-school history and social sciences. He then became a psychology professor at Rutgers University and retired as a high school guidance counselor. Today, Walker is an ordained minister on the staff of a church where he continues his focus on education.

Kerr Foundation Gift Propels Piper Lab Project Closer to Goal

The Kerr Foundation Inc., of Oklahoma City, Okla., has contributed $10,000 in support of the Health and Exercise Sciences (HES) Fontaine C. Piper Movement Analysis Laboratory project. The gift was made after the university successfully met the conditions of The Kerr Foundation’s 1:1 challenge grant.

“The challenge grant from The Kerr Foundation was instrumental in helping us secure more than $18,000 in contributions from HES alumni and friends, and we are extremely grateful for the impact of their gift,” says Charles Hunsaker (’98), director of development.

The gift from The Kerr Foundation pushes gifts and pledges to the Piper Lab project to more than $60,000 toward the overall goal of $100,000. When fully funded, the Fontaine C. Piper Movement Analysis Laboratory will be the leading motion analysis laboratory in the Midwest and will open up new research opportunities in human factors engineering (ergonomics), prosthetics and orthotics, geriatric medicine, and motion modeling and simulation.

“We are confident that these experiences and opportunities for research will lay a strong foundation for students who wish to pursue careers in the human-services professions, including medicine, physical and occupational therapy, and geriatrics,” says Chris Lantz, the department chair of Health and Exercise Sciences at Truman.

The lab is named in honor of Fontaine Piper, who devoted 34 years of service to Truman retiring as dean of the Division of Human Potential and Performance in June 2005.
McGahan Family Legacy Assists Nursing Students

Sharon McGahan, a member of the nursing faculty who retired last year, established the McGahan Family Nursing Fund as a tribute to her family’s ties to the university. The fund provides financial assistance to help defray the costs for students to attend conventions and conferences sponsored by the Nursing Students Association.

Sharon (’86) and her three siblings – Albert (’81), Matt (’83), and Marguerite (’86) – all graduated from the university in the 1980s, and Sharon has a special affinity for the Nursing Students Association. As students, both Sharon and her brother Matt were involved with the Nursing Students Association on the state and national level, and when Sharon became a faculty member in the Nursing Department at Truman in 1977, she continued her involvement with the association, serving as an advisor for many years.

In honor of her brother, Matt, who died in 2004, Sharon established the McGahan Family Nursing Fund to help defray the costs of attending the Nursing Students Association’s conventions and conferences. “What I learned from the people I met at the conferences was astounding,” says Sharon, who hopes that the McGahan Family Nursing Fund will help provide similar experiences for other students.

Investing in Future Business Leaders

Business students will benefit from the Chuck and Sherri Woods Endowment for Business Excellence Fund, which was established to commemorate the couple’s experiences and relationships with Truman State University. The Business Excellence Program is designed to develop skills and experiences in business students to promote successful careers and foster emergent leadership.

All declared business students will participate in a series of events over the course of their study at Truman that range from seminars in business ethics to career assessment to executive mentoring. As part of the program, students will also be exposed to personal social capital, the social capital of organizations, effective networking, teamwork, globalization, communication, and leadership. In addition, participants will also receive guidance on areas such as resume development, interviewing, and negotiation skills.

A 1986 Truman alumnus, Chuck received a bachelor of science degree from Truman and earned an MBA from Southern Illinois University. He is the director of Supplier Management and Procurement for Boeing’s Global Strike Systems and serves as the Boeing focal executive to Truman. He is also a member of the Truman State University Foundation Board of Directors. Chuck and Sherri reside in Florissant, Mo.

Jonny and Dave Eisenberg Speaker’s Fund

The Jonny and Dave Eisenberg Speaker’s Fund was established to honor and commemorate the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered Truman faculty, staff, and students who felt obligated to hide their sexuality and live closeted lives and for those members of the Truman community who helped pave the way for open expression and discussion of sexuality. The Eisenberg Speaker’s Fund is designed to encourage the inclusion, acceptance, and recognition of the LGBT community, and promote respect, understanding, education, and equality.

Newly Endowed Scholarships

The minimum amount required to establish an endowed scholarship fund at Truman is $15,000, contributed in full at the outset or with an initial commitment that is added to over time. The principal of the fund is invested to produce income and an annual award is made to students. The principal remains untouched, so the endowment can last into perpetuity.

Dwain and Vera Horn Scholarship

Dwain Horn (’50) and his late wife, Vera, of Omaha, Neb., established this scholarship in recognition of their lifelong connection with the university. Dwain, who received a bachelor of science in education from Truman in 1950, completed a six-year term on the Truman State University Foundation Board of Directors in 2007 and served as chair of the Investment Committee. A native of Moulton, Iowa, his business career spanned four decades with Principal Mutual Insurance and Mutual of Omaha.

James McGlassen Ross and Waneva Pickard Ross Endowed Nursing Scholarship

This fund was created through a gift made by Waneva (Pickard) Ross of Pinole, Calif., in recognition of her family’s roots in northeast Missouri and long-time connections with Truman State University. Ross studied nursing at the university in the early 1940s, and her husband, the late James McGlassen Ross, received his bachelor of science degree from the university in 1942. He had a lengthy career with Bank of America, retiring as vice president.

Miller-Duperron Scholarship

Truman alumna Linda Miller (’70) and Tim Duperron of Grosse Ile, Mich., created this named scholarship fund in appreciation of the outstanding educational experience Miller received at Truman. Miller’s education and the support of her professors led to scholarships for advanced education and a successful career in the automotive industry—she retired as the manufacturing director of powertrain operations for Ford Motor Company in December 2006. Miller also established the scholarship in recognition of her parents, Louis and Rita Miller, of Kirkville, Mo., for all they did to support their daughter in her pursuit of higher education and the encouragement they provided as she pursued her dreams. Miller received her undergraduate degree from Truman. She earned an M.A. from the University of Kansas and has an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit.

Amy Ayres Rosebery Debate Scholarship

Dean (‘41) and Amy (Ayres) (‘43) Rosebery established this endowed scholarship to honor, recognize, and perpetuate Amy’s achievements as a former member of the university’s debate team. Amy, who graduated from Truman as valedictorian of her class in 1943 with a B.A. and B.S.E. in English, was a top performer in oratory and debate contests at Truman. She taught speech at the Kirkville Junior High School in 1945, and from 1946-48, she taught English at the Blacksburg, Va., High School. In 1949, she received an M.A. from Columbia University in New York.

Dean received his B.S.E. in biology from Truman in 1941 and attended graduate school at Virginia Tech where he also received his Ph.D. He retired as professor emeritus of biology and head emeritus of Truman’s Division of Science in 1985.