Students Name Nursing Professor Educator of the Year

Pamela Gardner, assistant professor of nursing, was named as the 2007 Educator of the Year at the 18th annual banquet held on campus April 10. Students from Student Senate, the Pershing Society and Phi Kappa Phi serve on the University’s Educator of the Year committee, and this year more than 120 students nominated a record-breaking 82 faculty members for the Educator of the Year award.

Gardner, whose primary areas of expertise are child-family and maternal-neonatal nursing, began her career at Truman in 2000. “I was overwhelmed with the support I received from my students and the student senators,” said Gardner, who received her B.S.N. from Fitchburg State College and her M.S.N. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. “This is an award given to one person but earned by many between my students, my colleagues and my family...you can’t win this without support and understanding...I am still smiling.”

The eight-member student committee 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.

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Due to mandatory cost increases, such as utilities and increased minimum wages, as well as qualitative improvements in instructional equipment and campus technology, students will see an increase in enrollment fees for the 2007-08 academic year. The increases were approved by the Truman State University Board of Governors, and the tuition and fees for full-time, in-state undergraduate students will be $6,210, a 3.9 percent increase; out-of-state fees for full-time undergraduate students will be $10,820, a four percent increase.

“These modest fee increases are necessary to preserve the quality of the education we offer to our students,” Truman President Barbara Dixon said. “The Board of Governors is committed to ensuring that Truman remains both affordable and the institution of choice for academically talented students seeking an outstanding education in the liberal arts tradition.”

Based on a referendum vote by the student body, the Board also approved a $50 per semester-designated fee to support athletic facilities and programs. The fee was supported by 54 percent of student voters and will be used to improve athletics facilities used by all students and help maintain Truman’s varsity sports programs.
New Members Join Board of Governors

Gov. Matt Blunt has appointed Cheryl J. Cozette, of Columbia, Mo.; Matthew W. Potter ('96), of St. Louis, Mo.; and Kenneth L. Read ('73), of Kirksville, Mo., to the Truman State University Board of Governors to fill the expired terms of G. Ruth Mach ('58), of St. Louis; Sarah (Hartmann) Burkemer (92), of Troy, Mo.; and Michael T. Schwend ('83, '90), of Kirksville, Mo.

Cozette serves as an adjunct professor in educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia and this fall she will serve as a special consultant to the eMINTS National Center for programs related to school administrators. She recently retired as the assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the Columbia Public Schools. She has a baccalaureate degree in history from Kansas City College and Bible School, a master’s degree in elementary education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She also completed advanced course work in educational administration at Truman.

Potter is the deputy Democratic director for the city of St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners. His previous work experience included service as an associate attorney in the St. Louis law firm of Burroughs, Hepler, Broom, MacDonald, Hebrank & True, LLP and as an assistant circuit attorney for the Circuit Attorney’s Office for the city of St. Louis. Potter 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 University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 1999 where he served on the UM Law Review and earned Order of the Coif honors. Potter is licensed to practice law in Missouri and Illinois.

A Kirksville businessman, Read has been a real estate broker for 35 years and is the owner of Heritage House Realty. He received a baccalaureate degree in business administration from Truman in 1973 and is a Vietnam veteran, who served in the United States Marine Corps from 1969-1971. Read is chairman of the Board of American Trust Bank.

Jazz Flutist Galen Performs at Unity Luncheon

Galen Abdur-Razzaq, a nationally known jazz flutist, performed at the Unity Luncheon held on campus Jan. 15 to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. The daylong Unity Program, sponsored by Truman’s Multicultural Affairs, also included a performance by the University’s Unique Ensemble gospel choir, as well as poetry readings and reflections of King and how his mission of equality has affected the world as people know it today.

Pilot Project Expands Library Access to Technical and Scientific Reports

Pickler Memorial Library has been chosen to participate in a pilot project designed to provide online access to technical and scientific reports from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), the federal government’s central source for the sale of scientific, technical, engineering, and related business information by or for the U.S. government.

This project will give the Truman community free access to more than 240,000 reports published between 1964 and 2000. Major areas of content include physics, environmental pollution and control, nuclear science and technology, medicine and biology, energy, chemistry, materials science, natural resources and earth sciences, computers and information theory, and behavior and society.

Pickler Memorial Library is a member of the Federal Depository Program which is partnering with NTIS to provide these documents. Currently, this database may be accessed only in the library.
“In my own experience, the few times I really thought something could not be accomplished, someone else just went out there and did it in spite of what I thought—I much prefer being the person proving that the naysayers are wrong!”

— Truman alumna Linda Miller ('70), who retired as manufacturing director of Powertrain Operations for Ford Motor Company, from the Commencement address she presented to Truman’s graduating class in Stokes Stadium, May 5, 2007.

Allen Fellowships Awarded

In March, University President Barbara Dixon, Vice President for Academic Affairs Garry Gordon and Vice President for University Advancement Mark Gambaiana had the honor of presenting three faculty members with the Walker and Doris Allen Fellowship. Diane Janick-Buckner, professor of biology; Teresa Heckert, associate professor of psychology; and Jason Miller, associate professor of mathematics; each received a check in the amount of $10,000, and the Fellowships were presented in front of each faculty member’s class.

The Walker and Doris Allen Fellowship is a financial grant that recognizes outstanding faculty members at Truman who have greatly contributed to the success of the University and its students. Walker Allen, a 1939 alumnus, and his wife, Doris, established the Fellowship six years ago with one of the largest outright gifts ever made to the Truman State University Foundation.

University President Barbara Dixon presented three faculty members with a $10,000 check each courtesy of the Walker and Doris Allen Fellowship. Shown L-R: Diane Janick-Buckner, Teresa Heckert (center) and Jason Miller.

Call for Photos, Plans and Memories of the University’s Historical Gardens

Julie Lochbaum ('80), director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Truman State University, is compiling photos, plans, and memories of historical gardens on Truman’s campus for a presentation at the Missouri Master Gardeners’ Conference to be held at Truman in September. If alumni or former faculty and staff members have anything to share with Julie please contact her via e-mail lochbaum@truman.edu or by phone (660) 785-4477.
On move-in day, when I first saw the dorm that I would be living in for the next year, I was excited by how bright, modern, and clean the building seemed. I knew before I arrived that I had been lucky to be placed in the brand new West Campus Suites, but as I looked around, I really started to feel at home.

One of the main features of West Campus Suites that separates it from the other co-ed dorms at Truman is that each suite contains a living room and kitchenette. These give the suites a comfortable, home-like feel. Also, there are two, two-person bedrooms and one bath that the four occupants of each suite share. There was plenty of room to store everybody’s belongings, and as the year progressed, most residents decorated their living areas to make the spaces feel even more like home.

Each of the four floors contains two study rooms and a lounge with a flat-screen TV. Having laundry rooms on each floor is not only convenient in terms of carrying loads back and forth, it is also handy to have friends and student advisors right down the hall in case one wonders if it is possible to add too much soap, or whether it’s okay to wash reds and whites together. (The answers, I’ve learned, are “yes” and “definitely not,” respectively.) And, I’ve even heard of romances beginning in these in-hall laundry rooms!

The dorm contains six computer labs, with a printer on the first floor, and the first-floor lobby is a large common area with a brick fireplace and cozy chairs. The convenience store, also found on the first level, is known to most students as the “C-store” and offers many snacks, drinks, and even meals. Throughout the year, my fellow residents and I would use the C-store frequently—especially on days when it was too cold to walk to the dining halls. All of these features of the dorm calmed any nerves I had about living away from home for a year; I knew I would be comfortable and feel at home in West Campus Suites.

After having completed my first year at Truman, I still feel the same way about the dorm I will return to in August. Although some students jokingly refer to West Campus Suites as “the hotel” with the reason being that the sense of community usually found in dorms must suffer because each room has its own living area, I have not seen this to be the case. While individual living rooms in each suite have the potential to seclude residents, they actually have the opposite effect.

We all know how cold it can be in Kirksville, and, especially during the winter months, the living rooms provide space where friends can gather. Also, most residents leave their doors propped open so that friends can stop by and say “hi” as they walk down the hall. Other common areas, such as lounges and study rooms, provide space for housemates to mingle. These areas are usually filled with students working on schoolwork during the week, while on the weekends they often provide a place to gather with friends or eat take-out together. Floor-wide activities, such as birthday parties, informational programs, and house meetings, are also held in the lounges.

I met, and got to know, a lot of my fellow residents just by sharing a study room or watching TV together in the lounge. Phil Brandyberry, my friend who also lives in West Campus Suites, agrees. He says, “I knew about 90 percent of the people on my floor and was good friends with a number of them.” I look back on my first year at Truman and West Campus Suites with fond memories, and I am excited that I will be living with some of the same people next year.

Molly Gerber

Molly Gerber, a freshman English major from Lee’s Summit, Mo., shares her experience as one of the first students to live in West Campus Suites, the University’s newest residence hall.