Advancing Truman State University: The “Bright Minds Bright Futures” Campaign

Truman State University has embarked on a $30 million campaign, the first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign in the University’s 141-year history. The “Bright Minds Bright Futures” campaign, which is a major component of Truman’s strategic plan and vision to become the nation’s premier public liberal arts and sciences university, is designed to provide more opportunities for students, maintain Truman’s distinctiveness, and respond to increasing fiscal challenges.

The 4 campaign priority areas include

- scholarships
- student enrichment and academic program support
- faculty support and
- athletics

Truman officially began the advanced gifts phase of the “Bright Minds Bright Futures” campaign on July 1, 2006, and has generated more than $11.3 million in commitments as of May 30, 2008. The public phase of the effort will take place in the spring of 2009, with the campaign set to close on June 30, 2011.

“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.”

—UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT
BARBARA DIXON

Campaign Steering Committee

Chuck Foudree (*66), Chair
Charles McClain, Honorary Chair
Barbara Dixon
Thomas Jayne
Bonnie (Neuner) Kuebler (*87)
Mike McClaskey (*85)
Linda Miller (*70)
David Nichols
Randa Rawlins (*79)
Calvin Roebuck (*57)
Steven Rose (*69)
Truman Receives $2.87 Million Gift to Endow Programs

Truman State University recently received a $2.87 million cash gift, the second-largest ever in the University’s 141-year history. The gift is from the family of Squire Paul and Meeda (Daniel) Holman, a family with a deep history with Truman.

The gift is designated in three major areas: an endowment for need-based stipends for students to participate in study-abroad programs; an endowment for a distinguished speaker series to bring national and international figures to Truman’s campus; and an endowment for need-based stipends for students to attend Truman’s graduate programs.

“‘A gift of this magnitude has a tremendous impact on students,’” said University President Barbara Dixon. “‘Through the generosity of the Holman family, each year at least 50 students who might not otherwise have the opportunity, will be able to study abroad or continue their education at the graduate level.’”

In addition, students and the northeast Missouri community will benefit from nationally renowned speakers, artists, and authors through the distinguished speaker series.

Truman State University offers study-abroad opportunities in more than 50 countries around the world, and each year more than 500 Truman students participate in study-abroad programs. This endowment will allow a greater number of students to broaden the impact of their college career by participating in a study-abroad program.

The speaker series funded by the endowment will showcase national and international figures and provide interaction opportunities with Truman students, faculty and staff, and the northeast Missouri community. By bringing Nobel Prize winners, authors, artists, and distinguished experts in a variety of fields to the Truman campus, the series will enhance the educational experiences of Truman students and help them grow in ways that will promote successful careers.

Several opportunities are available at Truman for students searching for professional training or advanced study in a liberal arts field, and Truman’s graduate programs have a long history of receiving national recognition. Support for graduate students in the form of stipends will help attract bright scholars who wish to pursue a graduate experience and encourage them to attend Truman’s distinguished graduate programs.

The late Squire Paul and Meeda (Daniel) Holman each spent their childhood and young adult years in Green Castle, Mo. Paul served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War I, and Meeda attended Missouri Wesleyan College in Cameron, Mo. They were married in 1923 and moved to Kirksville, Mo., in 1937. Paul operated various businesses in Kirksville and then became a member of the staff at Truman State University, then known as Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, serving as the building custodian for Science Hall for 17 years. Both Paul and Meeda took an active role in the lives of the young scholars attending the University, and over the years, many students lived in their home, which was located across the street from the Blanton, Nason, and Brewer residence halls.

Gift Increases Endowment for Scholarship

The late David March

The late Meeda (Daniel) and Squire Paul Holman

The Truman State University Foundation announced that Joan (March) Piazza, a 1959 Truman alumna, has made a $10,000 gift in support of the David and Lois Marie March/Phi Alpha Theta Scholarship. The endowed scholarship fund, which honors Piazza’s late parents, as well as the passion her father had for history, is awarded to Truman students majoring in history.

Piazza’s parents established the scholarship at Truman shortly before her mother, Lois Marie March, died in 1993. Piazza’s father, David March, who passed away in 2005, had taught at Truman for 22 years before retiring in 1977 as professor emeritus of history. David founded the Nu Chi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at Truman in 1968 and served as sponsor of the history honor society for many years. He also served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Sites and was frequently called upon to serve as a consultant for the historic aspects of environmental studies for major projects such as the Long Branch Dam and Reservoir. In addition to numerous articles on Missouri history, he authored a multi-volume History of Missouri published in 1967 and compiled and edited A Book of Adair County History published in 1976.

David’s interest in historic preservation led to his service for a number of years on the Missouri Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, and he helped initiate a successful movement to resuscitate and incorporate the Adair County Historical Society. He was also a member of the State Historical Society of Missouri and Preservation Missouri and received many honors for his contributions.
The generosity of alumni and friends of the University in establishing new scholarships through the Truman State University Foundation assists talented students, many of whom could not have completed their education without this direct financial support.

Newly endowed scholarships:

**Debra Fortenberry Nichols Scholarship**
This scholarship was established in 2004 by Debra Fortenberry Nichols (‘80) and David C. Nichols in honor of Gregory Jones, professor of trumpet, in recognition of his contributions to music at Truman State University. The Nichols made a generous gift of $5,000 this year to propel the scholarship to the endowment level. It has been awarded as an annual scholarship since 2005 through additional gifts.

**George J. Hamilton Scholarship**
Established through the estate of George J. Hamilton, this scholarship is designated for a business major.

**Georgia L. and Maria L. Evans Scholarship**
This scholarship fund was established by Maria L. Evans (‘81). “Say You Will” is a personal motto of Evans’, reflecting her belief in the power of personal determination and positive thinking. From summer softball league to the challenge of medical school, this personal motto always inspired Evans. A 1981 graduate of Truman, Evans earned her M.D. at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and she served on the Truman State University Board of Governors from 1995 to 2001. She has chosen to honor her mother, Georgia L. Evans, with the scholarship as Georgia never had the opportunity to attend college but always valued education.

**Robert and Mona Justice Athletics Scholarship**
This endowed scholarship was established in 2007 through a generous gift from Robert and Mona Justice. The scholarship will provide meaningful support to intercollegiate student-athletes with demonstrated financial need. Robert and Mona Justice have been assisting Truman’s student-athletes since 2001 through support of the Robert and Mona Justice Annual Scholarship.

---

**Bulldog Football Program Receives $50,000 Gift**

Truman alumni Mark and Jill (Matthys) Schell of Lohman, Mo., have made a cash gift of $50,000 in support of the Bulldogs Forever: A Campaign for Bulldog Football. Mark, who was a member of the Bulldog Football program while at Truman, played tight end for the team and was a regular starter at that position. He currently serves as a member of the Bulldog Football campaign’s volunteer steering committee.

Mark graduated from Truman in 1997 with a bachelor of science in business administration and is currently the executive vice president for production at Diamond Pet Foods, Inc. Jill graduated from Truman in 1998 with a bachelor of science in exercise science and is currently a stay-at-home mother who enjoys taking care of their two boys, Sam and Charlie. The gift from the Schells is the largest single gift to Truman’s athletic program.

The football renovation campaign is designed to raise private gift support to assist in the renovation and enhancement of the Stokes Stadium facilities. The project includes installation of lighting and synthetic turf, renovation of the kennels, and the construction of visiting bleachers. To date, nearly $110,000 in commitments have been generated for the project.

---

**Scholarships at Truman**

**Making a Difference**

*Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, the Truman State University Foundation now awards more than $500,000 in scholarships to Truman students. For the 2007-08 academic year, the Foundation awarded more than 500 scholarships to Truman students with an average award of just over $1,025.*
Foundation Banquet Honors Supporters of the University

Several honorees were recognized at the Truman State University Foundation’s annual banquet held on campus April 15. In addition to recognizing alumni and friends who are members of the University’s John R. Kirk and Joseph Baldwin giving societies, Charles Foudree (‘66), of Lee’s Summit, Mo., was presented with the President’s Leadership Award, which honors select Truman alumni and friends for meritorious service through gifts of volunteerism, expertise and financial resources. The Truman Bookstore (A Barnes and Noble College Bookseller) received the Distinguished Corporation/Foundation Award, which recognizes corporations and foundations for exemplary support to Truman State University and its students.

A 1966 Truman graduate, Foudree has directly influenced many of his fellow constituents to reconnect with their alma mater, become more involved, invest their resources, and develop a deeper sense of appreciation for the work of the University. In 1998, he was named Truman’s Alumnus of the Year, and he currently serves as chair of Truman’s inaugural “Bright Minds Bright Futures” campaign. Previously he served an eight-year stint as a member of the Truman State University Foundation Board of Directors, and he has also served as a member of the School of Business Board of Advisors and as an Executive-in-Residence at Truman.

Foudree and his wife, Colleen, recently committed to $100,000 in a cash and deferred arrangement to create their second scholarship fund at Truman. The Colleen Foudree Scholarship is designed to assist students studying at Truman whose spouse is working to help pay tuition. This fund was established to honor Colleen’s work to finance Chuck’s studies at Truman.

Barnes and Noble College Booksellers operates more than 600 campus bookstores nationwide and has operated the Truman Bookstore since 1986. In addition to providing textbooks, Barnes and Noble College Booksellers strives to create an engaging retail environment that offers students a place to relax, study, and build collegiate spirit through athletic apparel and custom-branded merchandise. With more than $255,000 in support of Truman State University, Barnes and Noble College Booksellers has demonstrated a desire to be a financial investor in Truman. Their generosity has provided support for scholarships, building projects, such as the Magruder Hall renovation/expansion, the current renovation of the Student Union Building, and the Kohlenberg Lyceum Series.

Alumnus Honors Former Professor

Gail B. Crump, a 1964 graduate of Truman State University and professor of English at University of Central Missouri, recently made a $25,000 commitment to Truman’s “Bright Minds Bright Futures” Campaign to establish the C.V. Huenemann Lectureship in English.

The gift recognizes the preparation Crump received as an undergraduate student of C.V. Huenemann and commemorates Crump’s nearly four decades of distinguished service of English teaching. The lectureship is designed to provide Truman English students with a learning environment of renowned scholars and will be used to bring guest lecturers whose experience and expertise are relevant to the interests of the department, college and students at Truman State University.

Huenemann served as the chair of the Language and Literature Division at Truman from 1956-1981.
University Receives Gift of Stock

Establishing a charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a highly effective way to secure steady payments for you or your loved ones while providing benefits for Truman State University. J. Dean Fitzpatrick recently made a stock gift of $76,300 to establish a charitable gift annuity through the “Bright Minds Bright Futures” Campaign.

Fitzpatrick, a native of Shelbina, Mo., attended Truman in the early 1950s and has maintained an ongoing friendship with his classmate, former University President Jack Magruder ('57). Fitzpatrick spent 23 years in the Marine Corps, earning the rank of major, and also worked for Northrop Grumman. He currently resides in Banning, Calif. His generous gift is designated for the University Planetarium in Magruder Hall.

Increasing the Impact of Charitable Contributions through Matching Gifts

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and match the charitable contributions made by their employees, former employees, and in some cases, spouses of employees. In 1994, R.L. Pearce ('49), of Bevier, Mo., and Cypress, Texas, established a scholarship with his wife, Louise ('49), in memory of her parents, Claude ('17) and Gladie ('19) Dye to benefit outstanding students from Missouri with financial need. Upon his wife’s death in 2003, Pearce established a second scholarship in his wife’s memory, the Louise (Dye) Pearce Memorial Scholarship, designated for music majors to honor her years of teaching music.

 Pearce gives an additional $5,000 to the scholarships annually, and his gifts are matched by his former employer, Dow Chemical Company. In the summer of 2006, Pearce and his granddaughter, Leah Guerrero ('07), who graduated from Truman with a degree in communication, took flying lessons together at Truman.

Leaving a Family Legacy

Endowed scholarships provide the opportunity for alumni, parents, and friends to make gifts to assist Truman students while also creating a lasting legacy. Leo and Caroline Funk, of Columbia, Mo., made a gift to establish two new scholarships and increase an existing one.

Caroline served as a member of the University’s Board of Regents from 1974-1977, and both Leo and Caroline have maintained a supportive relationship with the University over the years. The couple established the Leo and Caroline Funk Scholarship, a fund that will provide support to academically talented students of high moral character at Truman.

In addition, the Funks have established the John Andrew Crossett Scholarship in honor of their grandson, John Andrew “Andy” Crossett. Andy, who graduated summa cum laude from Truman in 2005 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science, credits the academic rigor of the political science major at Truman as having successfully prepared him for his pursuit of a law degree. Andy was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, Beta Theta Pi, Pi Sigma Alpha and the men’s golf team. The John Andrew Crossett Scholarship will provide scholarship support for political science students of high moral character with preference being given to members of the Greek community.

In addition to the two new scholarships, Leo and Caroline made an additional gift to the Katie Funk Swimming Scholarship, which they had established in 2006. The Funks created the scholarship in honor of their granddaughter, Katie Funk, who graduated from Truman in 2006 with a bachelor of arts degree in marketing. Katie was a member of the women’s swimming team from 2002-06, a team that won the NCAA Division II national championship in each of her years at Truman.