Ceremonies were held in October 2005 in the cities of Macon, Atlanta, La Plata and Kirksville, Mo., to celebrate the completion of the Highway 63 Project, which expanded 22 miles of Highway 63 between Macon and Kirksville from two lanes to four lanes.

Plans to four-lane U.S. Highway 63 between Kirksville and Macon date back to the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1992, the U.S. Highway 63 corridor was identified for expansion to a four-lane highway. However, in 1998, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission came to the conclusion that MoDOT did not have sufficient funding to complete the project as planned.

When the project’s deferral was announced, the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce organized a community task force to consider the community’s options. The ultimate goal of the task force was to work in partnership with MoDOT to solve the problem. With support from the City of Kirksville and MoDOT’s District 2 office in Macon, plans were put in place to form the Highway 63 Transportation Corporation. The Corporation, chaired by Truman alumnus David Clithero (’83), included representatives from Adair, Macon and Schuyler counties and the cities of Kirksville, Macon, La Plata and Atlanta. After developing a strategy to move the project forward, the Corporation members accepted a proposal submitted by Koch Performance Roads Inc., of Wichita, Kan. This proposal offered design and construction management services that greatly condensed the time frame of the project to save time and money.

The proposal also included a pledge that the Corporation would seek a one-half cent sales tax from the citizens of Kirksville to provide up to 30 percent of the project’s total cost. The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission unanimously endorsed the proposal to accelerate the expansion of Highway 63, after which the City of Kirksville had to seek voter approval. On April 2, 2002, an overwhelming 78 percent of Kirksville voters gave their approval of the one-half cent sales tax increase.

Elsie (Kins) Gaber (’87), current chair of the Highway 63 Transportation Corporation, says the Corporation is still working together with an ultimate goal of taking the four-lane highway on up to Iowa.

The Truman State University Press and Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society co-sponsored Saloy’s visit to Truman which included a book reading and signing on Nov. 8. Ishmael Reed, judge for the 2005 T. S. Eliot Poetry competition, selected Saloy’s prize-winning collection of poems last January. Following the devastation that unfolded in New Orleans, La., after Hurricane Katrina, Reed said, “Ms. Saloy’s book might be the last will and testament of a great city.”

The T. S. Eliot Prize for Poetry is an annual competition in honor of native Missourian T. S. Eliot’s literacy legacy. The Press receives up to 600 poetry manuscripts for consideration each year.

Saloy is an associate professor of English and director of creative writing at Dillard University, but is a visiting associate professor at the University of Washington in Seattle for the 2005-2006 academic year.

For more information visit the Truman State University Press Web site at https://tsup.truman.edu/.

Just over a year ago, I had absolutely no idea where I would to go to college. I wanted to attend the best and most affordable university possible. I also wanted to have the opportunity to wrestle at the collegiate level, especially if it helped me attend a good university. As I began to narrow down the candidates for the college I would attend, I thought that there was no way I would have the opportunity to attend Truman, as it is about 500 miles away from my hometown of Stillwater, Okla. Nevertheless, I came up here for a visit with the wrestling coach, Dave Schutter, and I fell in love with the University.

Though I already was thoroughly impressed with Truman’s academic reputation, the visit here sealed the deal. There was no doubt in my mind that this is where I needed to be.

Moving into Centennial Hall seemed just like it would in a movie. I walked down the hall with my family with my arms full of boxes, and I met my roommates for the first time. Though I did not know anyone when I came to Truman, they became quick friends, as did many others. In spite of the huge difference between Kirksville and Stillwater, it was amazing how quickly this felt like home. Right off the bat, there were many different things to become involved with such as various clubs, Greek organizations, and of course, wrestling. Though wrestling has been very hard, I’m excited to see what will happen this season, in terms of both my personal success, and also the success of the team. In my time here, I also joined the fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha, and I look forward to becoming more involved with that as time progresses. Through both wrestling and the fraternity, I have made some great friends, and I cannot wait to see what happens with both in the future.

As I mentioned earlier, I’m from Oklahoma. Prior to coming to Truman, I had lived in the same town all of my life. I worried that when I came to Truman that it would be a very difficult adjustment and that I would be teased for everything from the way I dress to the way I talk. I found this not to be the case. Soon, I realized the diversity of people and opinions on this campus is celebrated, not discouraged. Rather than living under the label of being a ‘dumb okie,’ I’ve grown proud of where I come from, and the only teasing I’ve received (which usually has to do with my southern accent) has been in a friendly manner. I have been sincerely impressed with how accepting everyone has been, and I doubt if I would find this in just any university.

The only thing that has impressed me more than the beauty of the Truman campus, the kindness of the people, and the opportunities that these various organizations provide, has been the classes. Having taken a few classes concurrently at a large state university during high school, I was accustomed to being one of 50 in a class. Fortunately, this is not the case at Truman. My average class has about 20 students, which allows for a much more personal atmosphere. Rather than merely being another face in the crowd, all of my professors know my name!

I’m so fortunate for having been given the opportunity to attend Truman. Though at times the various demands of class, wrestling, Lambda Chi Alpha, and other organizations can grow a bit overwhelming, I’m so grateful to have the chance to enjoy these various components of a well-rounded college life. I would be lying if I said that I do not miss my family or my friends, but every day that I’m here, I’m that much happier that I chose to attend Truman. The people here have grown to be family. They have helped ease all my apprehensions about living in a strange, new place, and the University does a wonderful job of providing opportunities to get involved which has been an instrumental part in my success at Truman thus far. I’m proud to tell people that I attend Truman State University, and I could not have chosen a better university.
Twelve representatives of the Truman Forensic Union swept most of the top honors in debate and several championship awards in individual events at the Central States Tournament, co-hosted by Metropolitan Community College-Longview (formerly Longview Community College) and Truman, on the Longview campus in Lee’s Summit, Mo., Oct. 28-30, 2005. Truman captured the individual team championship in parliamentary debate, as well as both the tournament’s debate sweepstakes and combined debate and individual events sweepstakes championships. This performance placed Truman ahead of several regional players, including William Jewell College, Drury University and Washburn University, as well as schools attending from as far away as Oregon, Oklahoma and Texas.

In parliamentary debate, Truman cleared 100 percent of its squad, placing a rare six teams in elimination rounds. In the open (or “varsity”) division, the team of Stefani Wittenauer, a junior communication and political science double major from Belleville, Ill., and Sara Archer, a junior pre-business administration and pre-accounting double major from Riverside, Mo., won first place, defeating a team from William Jewell College that was ranked third nationally. Close behind them was the team of Elizabeth Hobbs, a senior biology major from Newton, Kan., and Jason Mo, a freshman chemistry major from Chesterfield, Mo., who reached the semifinal round. Additional open division teams reaching elimination rounds were the team of Kevin Haynie, a freshman political science major from Bridgeton, Mo., and Justin Nichols, a freshman from Gladstone, Mo., and Cathy Clark, a senior history major from Kansas City, Mo., and freshman Kristel Givogue, a freshman pre-business administration and English double major from Lake St. Louis, Mo. Reaching semifinals in the novice division was the team of Kristen Moore, a freshman political science and philosophy/religion double major from St. Louis, and Casey Sharp, a freshman from St. Joseph, Mo.

Quarterfinalists were Jessica Carr, a freshman justice systems major from Park Hills, Mo., and Samuel Cummins, a freshman history major from Collinsville, Ill. Cummins was the top speaker in the novice division, followed by Sharp in fourth, and Moore in fifth. In the open division, Wittenauer was ranked the third best speaker, and Haynie was ranked fourth.

Hobbs once again dominated the field for Truman in individual events. In the first half of the tournament, Hobbs was the champion in persuasive speaking and ranked fifth in extemporaneous speaking. In the second half of the tournament, Hobbs hosted this record with a first-place finish in both rhetorical criticism and impromptu speaking. She placed second in persuasive speaking as well. These awards confirm her qualification of persuasive speaking to the national tournament in April and bring her closer to the same goal in the other three events.

This is the first year Truman has co-hosted the Central States Tournament, sponsoring the Sunday portion of the tournament in individual events. This is part of an initiative started by the two programs last spring, in recognition of the articulation agreement that already exists between Truman and the Metropolitan Community Colleges,” said Kevin Minch, director of forensics at Truman. “We will co-host two college tournaments and a high school tournament this season. Our hope is to encourage community college transfers into the Truman program and increase awareness of high school students that they have two linked options for their education in liberal arts and forensics.”

Scholar Discusses Biography of Automobile Pioneer Henry Ford

Steven Watts, a professor of history at the University of Missouri-Columbia, visited the Truman campus in October 2005 to deliver the annual Kohlenberg-Towne Lecture. Speaking about the role Henry Ford played in shaping twentieth-century America, Watts discussed the profound impact that the industrialist had on shaping consumer values and a culture of self-fulfillment.

Watts based his discussion on his most recent book, The People’s Tycoon: Henry Ford and the American Century, published by Alfred A. Knopf, and a book signing was held following his lecture. The book has been favorably reviewed in venues such as the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle, Dallas News, Newsday, Miami Herald, Cleveland Plain Dealer, London Financial Times, Kansas City Star, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Fortune, and the Christian Science Monitor. The book also was chosen as a featured selection of the History Book Club for October. The author of several well-received books in American history, Watts has most recently focused on biographies of figures that have helped shape modern American culture in diverse ways, such as Walt Disney.

The Kohlenberg-Towne Lecture series was inaugurated at Truman in honor of Gilbert Kohlenberg and Ruth Towne in 1988, upon the occasion of their retirement from the history faculty. Although both are now deceased, their memory lives on in these lectures by prominent visiting scholars.
Donna (Tague) Bailey ('76)('84) is a middle daughter of six girls who grew up in the small town of Gorin, Mo., about 45 miles northeast of Kirksville, Mo. Bailey attended grade school, junior high and high school in Gorin, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian of her class. From third grade to her senior year, Bailey delivered the Quincy Herald Whig newspaper saving her earnings for college.

When it came time to attend college, she did not think twice about her choice and decided upon Truman State University (then known as Northeast Missouri State University). The University was a family tradition for Bailey and three of her sisters who also attended Truman — Nancy (Tague) Platz ('70), a retired physical education teacher from Ray Miller Elementary in Kirksville, who continues to substitute frequently in the Brashear (Mo.) school system; Diane (Tague) Gannon ('81), an accountant for MiTek Industries, Inc. in St. Louis, Mo.; and Sherrill (Tague) Clatt ('88), the principal of the elementary school in Gorin. When Bailey lived on campus in Centennial Hall, she was a suite-mate to her sister Nancy. At Truman, Bailey was awarded a Regent’s Scholarship and worked to fund the remainder of her education.

After attending Truman for two years, Bailey married fellow student David Robbins of Memphis, Mo. When Robbins left college and entered into the Navy, Bailey traveled with him for four years, before returning to complete her degree. In 1976, she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and was the only member of her graduating class to maintain a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Her father often teased her and would tell family and friends it took her eight years to get her degree (omitting the fact that she was not in school for four of those eight years) and that she never improved her grades (she started with A’s and ended with A’s, graduating as the valedictorian of the class of 1976).

Bailey always knew she wanted to teach and her favorite professors, Dr. Woods, Mr. Groff and Dr. Flowers, helped her find her niche in mathematics. She began her teaching career in mathematics in Memphis, a small town in northeast Missouri, and taught there for six years. Following her divorce from Robbins, Dr. Woods encouraged Bailey to accept a teaching position on the math faculty at Truman while she completed her master’s degree. She began teaching calculus in 1983 as a member of the faculty and reconnected with a former classmate, Wayne Bailey ('75), professor of computer science. A year later they married. Donna and Wayne have both taught at Truman for 22 and 25 years, respectively.

Bailey teaches pre-calculus and calculus and shares her love for math with her students. "Calculus gives you more power!" is her favorite statement to her students. "Calculus gives you the power to explain physical phenomena that you cannot do with algebra, trigonometry and geometry alone — it gives you the power to investigate how the change of one quantity affects the change of another in the physical and social sciences, economics, and so forth," explains Bailey, who hopes to excite her students through their learning to seize the power. Bailey especially enjoys hearing from previous students and cherishes all of the friendships forged through her years of teaching, especially getting acquainted with foreign students and learning from them and their experiences.

In her free time, Bailey enjoys writing letters the old-fashioned way and just being domestic. She loves gardening, especially flowers like irises, tulips, and lilacs. She stays close with her five sisters, and each summer they take an annual shopping trip. Bailey also enjoys traveling with her husband, and this past summer they took an Alaskan cruise touring Glacier National Park. They have one son, Brennan Robbins, age 28, of Kansas City, Mo.

Having advanced from top of the class to the front of the classroom, this math instructor encourages her students to seize the power of calculus.
Alumni who lived in campus housing and wonder how much their old residence hall has changed over the years can now check out their former home away from home even if they cannot make it back to campus. Video clips of Blanton-Nason-Brewer, Centennial, Dobson, Grim, Missouri and Ryle Halls have been posted on the Truman web site allowing viewers to take a quick tour of some of the housing facilities available to current students. The short videos feature the interiors and exteriors of the buildings, and each video is accompanied by a student resident talking about the unique features of his or her residence hall. To view the video clips, visit http://reslife.truman.edu/ and look for the Tours of Residence Halls link for ResLife Videos.

In addition, alumni and parents can watch the progress being made on the new residence hall recently constructed on the northwest corner of campus. The suite-style hall, designed to house 416 students, will be reserved for upperclass students and is expected to be open by fall 2006. Once the new residence hall opens for occupancy, renovations will begin on the existing residence halls. One of the University’s live webcams has been focused on the new residence hall construction site, and viewers can review pictures taken previously and create a ‘flip book’ to see the progression of the project. The University’s live webcams are located at http://webcam.truman.edu/.

The campus was packed with parents and younger siblings of Truman students who were invited to campus for Family Day on Oct. 8, 2005. This special event is designed to give students a chance to share their Truman experience with their parents and siblings, and also provides an opportunity for parents to visit with their son or daughter, tour campus, and socialize with other Truman parents.

During an assembly held on campus, University President Barbara Dixon and Student Senate President Mark Kirtland, a sophomore business administration major from Overland Park, Kan., welcomed parents to the annual event. The Family Day activities included a barbecue lunch in Red Barn Park, Truman sporting events, musical performances, and the Red Barn Arts and Crafts Festival in downtown Kirksville.

Parents were invited to attend seminars that focused on a student’s transition from high school to college as well as career opportunities that are available to students with a liberal arts degree. Students, parents and families also had a chance to take dance lessons at the Latin Dance Party, one of the campus activities held in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Family Day wrapped up with a comedy show presented by Alfred and Seymour sponsored by the Student Activities Board.


The Philosophy and Religion Club held a book sale Nov. 10-12 in honor of the late David Gruber, who had been a highly regarded member of the philosophy faculty and the Truman community. Gruber passed away in August 2005 due to stomach and liver cancer and is deeply missed by his former students and colleagues.

The books for the sale were from Gruber’s own collection and were donated by his wife, Laura (Fitch) Gruber (’89). The book sale was conducted in conjunction with the Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference on Nov. 12, and proceeds from the sale were donated to the Joseph Gruber Scholarship Fund, which was established in honor of David Gruber’s son.

Truman students were beginning the fall semester, the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina were wreaking havoc along the Gulf Coast causing several universities in the region to close down temporarily. Once news got out that the storm had sidetracked plans for many college students, University President Barbara Dixon announced that Truman State University would expedite applications received from students who had been displaced by the effects of the hurricane. Six students who had initially planned to attend either Tulane University or Loyola University enrolled at Truman so that they could continue their studies uninterrupted while their home institution recovered from the disastrous storm.

In addition, several fundraising efforts took place across campus to benefit the hurricane victims. Residence Life and Sodexo at Truman teamed together for a fundraiser that allowed students to donate one or more meals from their meal plan, and in turn, Sodexo gave the food cost of the meals to the Red Cross of Adair County. In addition, various groups across campus organized collections of clothing, food, and other necessities and supplies to donate to relief efforts.

Parents were invited to attend seminars that focused on a student’s transition from high school to college as well as career opportunities that are available to students with a liberal arts degree. Students, parents and families also had a chance to take dance lessons at the Latin Dance Party, one of the campus activities held in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Family Day wrapped up with a comedy show presented by Alfred and Seymour sponsored by the Student Activities Board.


The books for the sale were from Gruber’s own collection and were donated by his wife, Laura (Fitch) Gruber (’89). The book sale was conducted in conjunction with the Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference on Nov. 12, and proceeds from the sale were donated to the Joseph Gruber Scholarship Fund, which was established in honor of David Gruber’s son.
Thank-you notes are an often forgotten point in business etiquette these days. When you take the time to send a hand-written note to someone who has done a kindness for you, you are actually helping your professional career. People are much more likely to help someone in the future who has shown appreciation for their help in the past.

Although much business correspondence is conducted via e-mail these days, a paper thank-you note is still considered the standard. If you are concerned about the time it will take to “snail mail” a thank-you note, such as after a job interview where you know a selection will be made quickly, consider dropping the thank-you note by in person.

When is a thank-you note necessary? When a colleague has taken you out for a meal, when a customer has given you a gift, after a job interview, when someone has helped you advance your career in any way...the point is this: when in doubt, send a thank-you note.

What do you say? Here is an example of a thank-you note after a job interview:

Dear Ms. Campbell:

I wanted to drop you a note to let you know how much I enjoyed meeting with you on Friday. What a forward thinking company! I am confident that my work experience at XYZ, coupled with my Truman education, makes me an ideal candidate for your position. As I stated in the interview, I will give you a call early next week to touch base.

Warm regards,

Donna P. Correct

Here’s an example for someone who helped you in your job:

Dear John,

I can’t thank you enough for the presentation you made on economic development for the St. Louis Leadership Academy. The participants couldn’t stop talking about your innovative ideas for attracting new business to our area, as well as how concerned you are with expanding existing businesses. St. Louis is fortunate to have you working toward improving our business climate, and I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to share your wisdom with us.

Regards,

Glen S. Smart

The main point to remember here: when in doubt, send a thank-you note. You can’t go wrong.