Darrell Krueger Appointed Interim President

This past fall, the Truman State University Board of Governors announced that Darrell Krueger had been appointed to serve as the interim president of Truman following the resignation of Barbara Dixon, who had served as president of the University since July 2003. Krueger began his duties on Oct. 16, 2008.

“We are very fortunate to have someone with such a wealth of higher education experience and a person who knows our University so well,” said Mark Wasinger, chair of the Board of Governors.

“It is a great honor to be asked by the Board to serve as Truman’s interim president,” Krueger said. “I am thrilled to be returning to a University and community that my family and I love. I look forward to working with the campus community to continue to move the University forward.”

Krueger served as the 13th president of Winona State University from 1989 until his retirement in 2005. During his tenure as president, he was nationally recognized for his work in outcomes assessment. Under his leadership, Winona State University became one of the most technologically advanced universities in the nation with one of the largest laptop university programs supporting more than 8,000 laptop computers across campus.

Under Krueger’s leadership a comprehensive campus master plan was developed that included enhancement of campus green spaces, a new library that opened in 1999 and a state-of-the-art science laboratory center that was dedicated in fall 2004.

Before going to Winona, Krueger served for 16 years as the vice president for academic affairs and dean of instruction at Truman State University. For two years prior to that appointment, he served as an assistant professor of political science at Truman.

Krueger graduated summa cum laude as co-valedictorian from Southern Utah State College in Cedar City in 1967, with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and history. He earned a master’s degree in 1969 and a Ph.D. in 1971 from the University of Arizona, Tucson. He is the 50th Woodrow Wilson Fellow to become a president, and he is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Krueger and his wife Nancy have four children, two of whom graduated from Truman.

“...We are very fortunate to have someone with such a wealth of higher education experience and a person who knows our University so well.”

— MARK WASINGER
Chair of the Board of Governors
Barbara Dixon Resigns

Last September, Chair of the Truman State University Board of Governors Mark Wasinger announced that the Board had accepted the resignation of University President Barbara Dixon, effective at the close of business Oct. 15, 2008. The Board and Dixon had been in conversation for several months regarding the goals and expectations for the future and had concluded that it was unlikely that they would arrive at a mutually satisfactory agreement.

“Our talks have been professional and friendly, but given our differences, I believe at this point that it is in everyone’s best interest that I step down from my position,” Dixon said. “I recognize the timing is not optimal, but appreciate the Board’s consideration in accepting my resignation at this time.”

In accepting the resignation of Dixon, Wasinger noted: “President Dixon has accomplished a great deal during her tenure as University president for which we are grateful. Under her guidance and leadership, the University has shown significant progress in many areas. She has demonstrated courage and perseverance in discharging her duties as president of Truman State University. Most assuredly, she will excel in any future endeavors and the Board wishes her well.”

Areas in which the University has shown significant progress are facilities improvement, advancement/fundraising including launching the first comprehensive campaign, academic reorganization that established academic departments with faculty chairs, enhancement of faculty salaries, and several outstanding hires of senior administrative staff. Other areas where Dixon made an impact include the creation of a Staff Council, and the development of a classification/compensation system for all non-faculty positions that will provide better market equity and promotional opportunities for staff.

In her five years at Truman, Dixon had been selected by her colleagues to serve in several leadership positions including president of Missouri Council on Public Higher Education from 2005-2007, president of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges from 2005-2007, and an at-large member of the NCAA Division II President’s Council.

Truman Among Nation’s Top Producers of Fulbright Awards in Master’s Category

Truman State University was featured in the Oct. 24, 2008, issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education as a top producer of Fulbright awards for U.S. students among master’s level institutions.

The article includes a list compiled by the Institute of International Education of “Top Producing” schools — those institutions in each Carnegie Classification that had the highest number of students who received Fulbright grants this year. Truman was determined a master’s institution in 2005 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The four groups of institutions listed include research institutions, bachelor’s institutions, master’s institutions and other institutions. The “other” category represents specialized and unclassified institutions. A complete list of institutions is available at http://us.fulbrightonline.org.

In 2008-2009, Hannah Kay and Gregory Wiser were each awarded Fulbright scholarships from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Kay, a 2008 Truman graduate from Springfield, Ill., received a U.S. student scholarship to Russia for teaching English as a foreign language. Wiser, a 2007 Truman graduate from Springfield, Mo., received the same scholarship to teach English in Germany.

The Fulbright Program provides myriad opportunities to strengthen the global reach of a community of teachers and learners who will energize and internationalize institutions for years to come.

The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide and about 1,500 students and 1,300 scholars from the United States and abroad are studying and working on Fulbrights this academic year. Throughout its history, the Fulbright Program has allowed more than 108,000 Americans to study, teach or conduct research abroad, while more than 178,000 students, scholars and teachers from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States.
Through the leadership and generosity of Travis Freeman, in partnership with Truman State University, the Children’s Literature Festival will resume in 2009 following a four-year hiatus. A featured special event in the former Language and Literature Division for 21 consecutive years, the festival was discontinued in the aftermath of severe budget restraints.

The primary objective of the festival is to stimulate the interest of children in reading and literature. The festival will bring authors from the region and throughout the country together with area children, teachers, librarians, educators, and interested citizens to celebrate children’s literature and to share insights and experiences in writing, illustrating, reading and appreciating this genre.

Ten authors will be showcased in the festival, connecting area school children with books and their authors. An estimated 1,500 children from grades four through six from approximately 20 schools in northeast Missouri will be invited to participate in the event, which will be held on campus April 17, 2009. For more information visit http://library.truman.edu/Children’sLiteratureFestival.htm.
Dan Peterson Elected to Hall of Fame by Missouri Bandmasters Association

Truman State University Director of Bands Dan Peterson was elected to the Missouri Bandmasters Association (MBA) Hall of Fame in June 2008. He is the 40th band director in the more than 100-year history of Missouri bands to be elected to the prestigious MBA Hall of Fame.

Missouri Bandmasters Association represents approximately 750 high school band directors, 900 junior high and elementary school band directors, and 35 college band directors in the state of Missouri.

Peterson has been director of bands at Truman for 30 years. He is credited with bringing “Corps Style” marching bands, drum line, and flag squads to the state of Missouri in his early years at Truman. He has presented clinics and has adjudicated bands throughout the country and internationally in Canada.

Under his baton, the University’s concert band has performed at Music Educators National Association and College Band Directors National Association national and regional conferences on six occasions including most recently in March 2008. They have also performed at the state music educators conference nine times.

Peterson has been a consultant for the Pygraphics (marching band drill design) computer software company and has been a clinician for Slingerland Drum Company and Yamaha Corporation of America, band and orchestra division. Nineteen of Peterson’s former students have followed in his footsteps to become college band directors, studio teachers or jazz band directors. Hundreds of other students have gone into public school teaching or chose to play or conduct professionally.

Peterson’s duties as director of bands include organization, auditions, selections of students, programming of music, and performances of the Statesman Marching Band, Wind Symphony, Concert Band, basketball bands, and chamber ensembles. He teaches two graduate conducting classes, two graduate music education classes, and two undergraduate music education classes. He is the coordinator of the Wind and Percussion Committee and a primary recruiter for the bands. He has served on numerous committees both in the Music Department and across campus.

10th Anniversary of the Friends of the Gallery

The Friends of the Gallery is celebrating its 10th anniversary of promoting the University Art Gallery this year.

Founded in 1999 by a group of interested community members and Aaron Fine, the gallery director, the Friends of the Gallery provide community feedback about gallery activities, promote gallery programs to their friends and neighbors, and help raise money for the gallery endowment.

With a slow and steady philosophy of fundraising, the Friends of the Gallery have raised more than $40,000, primarily through an annual spring event. Art alumni and others interested in supporting a well-rounded cultural environment on campus are encouraged to attend this year’s 10th Annual Friends of the Gallery Fundraiser on March 27, 2009. The celebration will include music and refreshments.

For an invitation to the fundraiser contact Aaron Fine at afine@truman.edu or (660) 785-5386. For information on how to make a gift, visit http://giving.truman.edu/.

Photograph of the University Art Gallery (renovated 2000-2002) taken by Paul Talley. Sculpture in foreground by Danielle Yakle (’05).
Student Research Projects: Making an Impact

Taylor Klein, a senior art history major from Ste. Genevieve, Mo., was among 44 students who conducted a variety of research projects this past summer that were funded by Truman’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Office. The research projects were designed by the students and ranged from the study of newborn timber rattlesnakes to a historical analysis of the Bulgarian stock market. After realizing questions she was asking about the artwork in her hometown church were questions no one could answer, Taylor applied her academic expertise to find the answers herself.

Taylor Klein’s story:

As an art history student, I took particular interest in the Catholic Church in Sainte Genevieve, Mo. The Gothic Revival church contains a great variety of sculpture, stained glass, and painting, however, none of the pieces were documented or inventoried. In fact, little to nothing was known about a majority of the pieces in the church. I felt that it was important to preserve the pieces and what was known about them for the church and its visitors. I decided that the Truman Undergraduate Research Stipend would be an excellent way to fund the documentation of the church’s inventory, the printing of an artwork guide for church visitors, and to begin the conservation of four of the church’s oil paintings.

I learned a great deal from this experience. Working with objects which had little to no prior documentation was frustrating but rewarding. What I was able to produce was a comprehensive inventory of all the pieces currently on display in the church with full descriptions and reports of their current conditions. This is to be kept at the church in their records. The artwork guide is being printed by a local printing company to enhance the experience of church visitors. I am currently working with the church and private art conservators in St. Louis to establish a timeline for the conservation of the four paintings.

The entire experience was very rewarding for myself and for the Ste. Genevieve Church, which now has documents which will prove helpful in future artwork conservation and study. I enjoyed my summer work and look forward to presenting at the Student Research Conference in April 2009.

—Information provided by Sara E. Orel, Professor of Art History
Construction Around Campus

**Student Union Building:** The three-phase renovation of the Student Union Building that began in 2006 has been completed, and one of the most visible changes can be seen in the former Quiet Lounge. The large lounge area on the main level not only received a new look, it also has a new name. The Quiet Lounge is now known as the “Hub,” the winning name selected by a student-renaming contest. The Hub has new furniture as well as a staircase that leads to a new loft area. Some of the other improvements in the building include a centrally located elevator, a restroom that was added to the main level and a street entrance for the University Bookstore located on the lower level.

**Residence Halls:** The newly renovated Blanton-Nason-Brewer Hall re-opened in August 2008 and welcomed 50 first-year students and 300 upper-class students, including transfer students and sorority housing. New additions and amenities to the suite-style building include: new carpet in each hallway, room, and lounge; new paint; new plumbing throughout the building; new bathroom layouts; A/C control in each room; kitchen and laundry facilities on each floor; new computer stations on the second and third floors; new study rooms on each floor; an elevator; ramps for handicap accessibility; open lounges; and a new back entrance to the building. The renovation of Blanton-Nason-Brewer was part of a campus improvement project that is updating all of the University’s older residence halls. Missouri Hall has already been remodeled, and construction crews are working on Dobson Hall. Ryle Hall and Centennial Halls will also undergo renovation.

**Admission Office/Ruth Towne Museum and Visitors Center:** Construction continues on the building purchased by the University that formerly housed the Kirksville Fire Department. The facility, which is currently being renovated and expanded, will house Truman’s Admission Office and the Ruth Towne Museum and Visitors Center. The museum is named after the late Ruth Towne, who retired as professor emerita of graduate studies in 1988. Towne made a $1 million bequest to the University to help fund the museum, and a significant portion of her gift was designated as an endowment fund to maintain the museum.

**Newman Center:** A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Nov. 8, 2008, to dedicate the newly rebuilt Catholic Newman Center at Truman State University. The building that formerly housed the Newman Center at 907 S. Davis St. was completely destroyed by fire in May 2007 when it was struck by lightning. The Newman Center embarked on a capital campaign to raise money to rebuild the facility which was built on the same site and features an additional 6,000 square feet of space.

---

**Kiplinger’s Ranks Truman Among Best Values**

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine has listed Truman as 20th on its exclusive survey list of 100 best values in public colleges that “combine outstanding economic value with top-notch education.”

The top 100 schools were selected from a pool of more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities, and Truman is the only university in Missouri and the eight contiguous states listed in the top 40.

In the December 2008 issue, Truman is also ranked as the fifth best educational value for out-of-state students.

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance based its rankings on several measures of academic quality, such as ACT or SAT test scores, admission rates, freshman retention rates, student-faculty ratios and four- and six-year graduation rates. They also ranked each school based on cost and financial aid factors. In addition to doing their own reporting, Kiplinger’s used data provided by more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities to Peterson’s/Nelnet.

To view the entire list, go to http://www.kiplinger.com/money/collegevalues.