

# Truman *today*

A Homecoming Special Edition

Volume 17

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## Student Union Building Celebrates Anniversary

### Student Union Building Directors

#### 1966-1979

Kenneth Sykes

#### 1979-1990

Russell Harrison

#### 1990-1995

Jim Nevins

#### 1995-2001

Verona (Vonnies) Nichols

#### 2001-2003

Doug Daubert

#### 2003-2004

Mark Weidner

#### 2004-2008

Sujit Chemburkar

#### 2008-2009

Directorship temporarily falls under the direction of Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of Student Affairs.

#### 2009-Present

Dave Lusk

Oct. 20 marks the 45th anniversary the University's Student Union Building (SUB). This anniversary, which coincides with this year's homecoming celebration, offers both current and former students, faculty and staff the opportunity to reflect on their fondest memories of time spent at the Student Union.

The Student Union was originally completed Oct. 20, 1967 as a means of bringing the University community together by providing facilities where student-based activities could take place. While it has continued to maintain this distinct purpose through the years, the Student Union has also grown and expanded along with Truman to fulfill emerging student needs.

Although the exterior of the building has remained mostly the same, the inside of the Student Union has experienced many changes throughout the years. Major renovations in 1986, 1990, 1994 and 2006 have altered the layout and aesthetic of the interior of the building. The most recent renovation, in 2006, brought changes such as: the



conversion of the Quiet Lounge to the HUB, including a new passenger elevator, staircase and seating; the addition of Freshens and Jazzman's Café and Bakery to the main floor; the addition of the south entrance on the first floor; the creation of the SUB Down Under venue; and rest rooms on the main floor.

Other main modifications have included the expansion of the University bookstore (1986), the renovation of the Snack Bar now known as the Mainstreet Market (1990), and removal of the bowling lanes on the lower level (1991).

*Pictured, top right: following the completion of the Student Union Building Marion Street is closed down in 1973 to begin construction of the Mall. The Mall and fountain are completed in 1975. Center right: SUB Director Kenneth Sykes (left) and Student Council President Jack Wright at the Student Union ribbon-cutting ceremony. Bottom right: a view of the Quiet Lounge from the main concourse of the second floor. The room, now the HUB, has been renovated by the University twice since its establishment.*



# A Look Back Into the History of the Student Union Building...

**1940s-** President Eugene Fair names the large hall in Kirk Building "Sociability Hall." This represents one of the University's first undertakings to offer students facilities for activities.

**1945-** The postwar faculty planning committee recommends the future construction of a Student Union Building.

**June 1961-** President Walter Ryle recommends a student union fee of \$8 per quarter to the Board of Regents. The Board arrives at a fee of \$5 per quarter.

**April 1963-** Ryle appoints a Student Union Planning Committee consisting of students and faculty.

**July 1965-** The University acquires all of the land necessary to construct the Student Union Building.

**March 1966-** The University hosts a groundbreaking ceremony with Student Council President Harry Libby and President Ryle residing. This is believed to be the first official ceremony in Truman's history that was organized and conducted solely by students. The Student Union is dedicated and the cornerstone is laid Aug. 9, 1966.

**Oct. 1967-** The Student Union officially opens at 10 a.m. Oct. 20, 48 days after the celebration of the University's centennial.

**Jan. 1973-** Marion Street is closed and construction begins on the Mall. The Mall and fountain are completed in December of 1975.

**Sept. 1975-** Professor William Unger is commissioned to paint a mural modeled off the artistic style of painter Thomas Hart Benton to commemorate the U.S. bicentennial celebration.

**Feb. 1984-** A study of the feasibility and cost of renovating the Student Union begins. The study concludes that repair and renovation are needed in the building. Areas targeted in the renovation included roof repairs, masonry work, expansion of the campus bookstore, furnishing in the Georgian Room, the Quiet Lounge and the Snack Bar.

**1986-** The first phase of the renovation begins with the relocation of student media offices including the Index,



*A view of the west side of the Student Union Building from Franklin Street, circa 1966.*

Echo and KNEU to the lower level of the Union from Laughlin Hall.

**1990-** Planning commences for the renovation of the Snack Bar and the games room area.

**Oct. 1991-** The renovation of the Snack Bar is completed and renamed Mainstreet Market. Improvements included new lighting and

furnishings, reconfiguration of the serving area and the removal of the wall separating the windows and the dining area (formerly the Art Gallery).

**Late 1991-** The bowling lanes are removed.

**1993-** The Board of Governors grants approval for the renovation of the games room area. On-site construction begins April 1.

**Feb. 1994-** The University hosts a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Feb. 4 to honor the opening of the newly-renovated lower level. Improvements include a new games room area, multipurpose space, lounge seating, office space and student organization work areas.

**Jan. 1997-** An affiliate of the national sub-sandwich chain "Blimpies" is added to Mainstreet Market.

**2006-** A new phase of renovations begins on the Student Union Building. Renovations to the Quiet Lounge include a new staircase and passenger elevator. The SUB Down Under venue was also created and Jazzman's Café and Bakery and Freshens were installed on the main floor. A south entrance was added on the south side of the first floor. The Georgian Room was also renovated to allow the room to be sectioned off into three separate spaces.

**Sept. 2008-** The Quiet Lounge is renamed the HUB after student Libby Piel wins the University contest to rename the room.

**Oct. 2012-** Since the very beginning, the Union has served as a focal point for programs, meetings, dining and relaxation for students, faculty, staff and off-campus visitors. As the community center for the campus, the Union continually seeks to serve as a unifying force in the life of the University. For more information about the Union and its services, visit [studentunion.truman.edu](http://studentunion.truman.edu) or call 660.785.4186.



*The Student Union Building Alumni Room.*



*Removed in 1991 and located on the lower level of the Student Union, the bowling lanes were originally replaced with a games area.*



*The Quiet Lounge was renovated in 2006 and renamed the HUB in 2008 to better reflect the new use for the area which is now a popular hangout for students to eat, meet for study groups or just hang out with friends.*



*The Games Room, as it was known at the time, resided in the present-day location of a number of offices including the Center for Student Involvement, Student Senate and the Student Activities Board.*