Truman Chosen to Participate in Prestigious Heartland Mathematics Partnership

Truman State University has gained another distinction among Missouri’s colleges and universities: being the only institution from the state whose department of mathematics was invited to participate in the Heartland Mathematics Partnership.

The project is initiated by the Department of Mathematics at the University of Iowa. The Partnership involves 12 regional liberal arts institutions: Bradley University, Central College, Clarke College, Coe College, Cornell College, Grinnell College, Loras College, Luther College, Truman State University, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse and Warburg College.

The University of Iowa and the Partnership schools received formal notification in September 2006 that the Partnership has been awarded a prestigious five-year, $3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant designed to increase the number of highly talented students from the United States who enter a career in the mathematical sciences. Called VIGRE (Vertical Integration of Research and Education), the project is one of only three such grants awarded each year across the country.

The NSF VIGRE grant will sponsor a number of Partnership activities: (1) Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as post-doctoral fellows will be supported in state-of-the-art mathematics research as part of teams with University of Iowa faculty. (2) An extensive Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) will be created at the University of Iowa, with preferential admission extended to undergraduates from the 12 Partnership schools. (3) Faculty exchange programs will be offered to faculty at Partnership schools whose research overlaps with that of University of Iowa mathematics faculty. (4) Some long-term research projects will be offered, where undergraduates continue to work with a professor at their home institution on a project initiated at the University of Iowa.

The Principal Investigator of the VIGRE grant is David Manderscheid, chair of the department of mathematics at the University of Iowa. Kevin Easley, professor of mathematics, represents Truman State University on the Heartland Mathematics Partnership.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band Kicks Off Kohlenberg Lyceum Series

The 2006-2007 Truman State University Kohlenberg Lyceum Series begins with the smooth sounds of the New Orleans based Preservation Hall Jazz Band at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 3 in Baldwin Auditorium. They will also have a master class at 2 p.m. Oct. 2 in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Band members Carl LeBlanc, Walter Payton and Joseph Lastie will deliver the general lecture.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band is celebrating its 45th anniversary by touring worldwide in order to spread their mission to nurture and perpetuate the art form of New Orleans Jazz. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band previously performed at Truman in September 2000.

The band is lead by director Ben Jaffe. The band derives its name from Preservation Hall, the venerable music venue located in the heart of New Orleans’ French Quarter.

Founded in 1963, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band has produced seven albums in its 45 years of existence.

Tickets for the performance are free to all students, faculty and staff, and are available beginning Sept. 26. Tickets for faculty and staff are available in the Center for Student Involvement, and students may pick their tickets up in the Student Activities Board office.
**Truman Alumnus Dominic Armstrong to Perform Recital On Campus**

Already a distinguished opera singer and recitalist, Truman alumnus Dominic Armstrong (’02) is returning to his roots with an on campus performance of Johannes Brahms’ “Romanzen aus Tiecks Magelone” (“Ballads from Tieck’s Magelone”). The recital is at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28 in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. The recital will also feature Nancy Hueber, pianist and Adam Davis, narrator. Admission is free.

A native of Kirksville, Armstrong received his Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Truman State University. While at Truman, Armstrong was an active performer, twice winning the Gold Medal Concerto/Aria competition. He performed such roles as Seymour in “Little Shop of Horrors,” the Padre in “Man of LaMancha,” Agwe in “Once on this Island” and L’Amante in “Amelia al ballo.”

Upon graduating from Truman, Armstrong attended the Juilliard School, where he received his Master of Music in vocal performance. He performed several recitals and opera roles at the Juilliard School, including Dr. Eisenstein in “Die Fledermaus,” and Ivan in Richard Wargo’s “The Music Shop.”

Armstrong is currently pursuing a second Master of Music degree in opera at the Curtis Institute of Music, studying with Marlena Kleinman Malas.

At the Curtis Institute of Music, Armstrong has appeared as Tamino in ”Die Zauberflöte,” Brighella in “Ariadne auf Naxos,” the fisherman in “Le Rossignol” and the Mayor in “Abert Herrig.” He will also appear in “L’Ormindo,” “La Rondine” and “Postcards from Morocco.”

This past summer, Armstrong sang with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis as a Gerdine Young Artist, and sang for the second season with Chautauqua Opera where he appeared as Alfredo in “La Traviata and won the SAI Vocal Competition. At the end of October, he will perform as tenor soloist in Mozart’s “Requiem” with the Kansas City Symphony.

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**Nursing Students Study Abroad in Philippines**

Truman State University nursing students who traveled to the Philippines last summer for a professional and cultural immersion, will share their experiences with both the University community and Kirksville at 8 p.m. Oct. 3 in the Student Union Building Alumni Room.

Nursing students will present posters, visual technologies and oral accounts of their discoveries in the Philippines. Refreshments will be provided by the Center for International Education Abroad. The public is invited to the event.

Eight senior nursing students from Truman spent three weeks from May 26-June 18, 2006, interacting with professional staff and patients in the Philippines.

Truman students Ashley Carter, Jessica Corwin, Melissa Maloney, Christine Morre, Jaime O’Sullivan, Melody Turner, Ashley Walker and Christine Williamson traveled to the Asian country to participate in this unique study abroad/professional immersion experience. Two senior nursing students from Blessing-Rieman School of Nursing in Quincy, Ill., Amy Curran and Lora Schiedekamp, also traveled with the group.

Kit Hadwiger, assistant professor of nursing, was the faculty coordinator of the Nursing Transcultural Program in the Philippines. Stephen Hadwiger, associate professor of nursing, was the faculty assistant for this previous summer's program.

Students spent their first week in Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, the national government flagship hospital in Manila, working primarily in obstetrical and pediatric settings. Their experiences were not limited to just those two settings, however, as students got the chance to soak up a breadth of different clinical experiences.

During their final two weeks, students were paired with Filipino nursing students through West Visayas State University College of Nursing and learned about cultural influences in diverse clinical settings. They made home visits in barrios, examined commercial sex workers in the social hygiene clinic, interviewed people with leprosy at the Santa Barbara Sanitarium, assessed pregnant women in a prenatal care clinic and cared for patients in medical/surgical hospital wards. Nursing students also conducted cultural assessments, and examined influencing factors on health care, such as economics, culture, politics and gender.

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**Summer JINS Course Travels to England**

This past summer, Truman State University students were presented with a unique way to take their Junior Interdisciplinary Seminar (JINS) course, as well as to experience the sites and sounds of the original British rock and roll invasion, via a study abroad course. The Rock Generation, a summer JINS course, traveled to London and Liverpool, England. The course was offered as part of the study abroad London Program.

The course, which was created by Gregory Jones, professor of music, in 1997, combines the study of the British Invasion of rock and roll music in the 1960s, with live performances at Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club, and the Nothin’ But the Blues Bar in London. Tours of famous British music landmarks were also a part of the course, including such historic sites in London as the Abbey Road Studios and Soho. Historical sites in Liverpool included Penny Lane, Strawberry Fields, the Cavern Club and the boyhood homes of the Beatles.

This unique summer course united Truman students with students from other universities in Missouri and the eastern United States.

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**Truman Alumnus to Present as Executive-in-Residence**

Truman alumnus Chuck Woods (’86, ’95) will give two presentations.

“The Firm and its Stakeholders - A Leadership Perspective - Customers”
3:30-5 p.m. Oct. 2
Violette Hall 1000

“The Firm and its Stakeholders - A Leadership Perspective - Shareholders”
7-8:30 p.m. Oct. 2
Student Union Building Activities Room

The presentations are free and open to the public.
NOTABLES

Marijke Breuning, associate professor of political science, and John Ishiyama, professor of political science and director of the Robert E. McNair Program, had their article “Marketing the International Studies Major: Claims and Content of Programs at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions in the Midwest” accepted for publication in the May 2007 issue of International Studies Perspectives.

Mark Spitzer, assistant professor of English, recently had his essay “Necrophilia: An Exquisite Experience With The Exquisite Corpse (Journal)” accepted for publication in the University of Nebraska Press’ upcoming anthology, Exquisite Corpse: Collaboration, Creativity and the World’s Most Popular Parlor Game (Kantha Kochhar-Lindren, Davis Schneiderman, and Tom Denlinger, eds.).

The following faculty presented at the Missouri Campus Compact Annual Conference Sept. 16 at the Tan-Tara resort in Osage Beach, Mo.: Steve Carroll, associate professor of biology, presented “Planting the Seeds of Service-Learning in a Campus Clock Garden;” Roberta Donahue, assistant professor of health and exercise science, presented “Striking a Balance: Community Needs, Discipline Demands and Student Preferences in an After-School Service-Learning Program;” Teri Heckert, associate professor of psychology, presented “Service-Learning Opportunities in Smaller Communities: Variations on the Theme;” and Todd Hammond, associate professor of mathematics, and Wendy Miner, assistant professor in education, presented “Deepening College and Community Connections: A Math Service-Learning Project.”

Brenda Wheeler, assistant professor of nursing, Stephanie Powelson, nursing program director and associate professor of nursing, and Ju-hyang Kim (’06) have had their manuscript, “Interdisciplinary Clinical Education: Implementing a Gerontological Home Visiting Program,” accepted for publication in Nurse Educator in summer 2007. Submission was also accepted for an oral paper presentation at the 11th Annual Nursing & Health Professions Educator Conference on Oct. 18 at the University of Southern Indiana.

Who’s Who Applications Now Available for Students
Applications for the 2006-2007 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Award, are available in the Dean of Student Affairs Office in Kirk Building 112. Nominations are due by Sept. 29.

Completed applications need to be returned by Oct. 27 to the Student Affairs Office. For further information, visit the Student Affairs Web site at http://saffairs.truman.edu, stop by Kirk Building 112, or call 785.4111.

Graduate School Week
Oct. 2-4
The University Career Center, along with the McNair Foundation, is sponsoring Graduate School Week. This week is designed to provide students information in their graduate school aspirations from writing their personal statements to allocating funds and scholarships.

Oct. 2
Graduate School Fair
1-5 p.m. • SUB Activities Room
For information on Graduate programs attending, visit the Career Center’s Web site at http://career.truman.edu

“Writing the Personal Statement”
Presented by Associate Professor Royce Kallerd
5:30-7 p.m. • SUB Alumni Room
Oct. 3
Walk-in Graduate School Assistance
2:30-4:30 p.m. • Career Center

“How Me the Money!”
Learn how to find funding for graduate school through nationally competitive scholarships, financial aid and departmental funding
Presented by Professor Adam Davis
6-7:30 p.m. • Violette Hall 1000
Oct. 4
Walk-in Graduate School Assistance
noon-2 p.m. • Career Center

“Bound for Graduate School?”
Strategies to Gain Admission to Highly Competitive Graduate Programs
Presented by Donald Asher
4:30-5:30 p.m. • Violette Hall 1000

Black Alumni & Attendees Scholarship Committee Launches Challenge

Black alumni will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Black Alumni Reunion at Homecoming. In honor of this anniversary, they have established the Black Alumni & Attendees Scholarship to benefit black students attending Truman. To date, they have raised more than $6,000, thanks to the generosity of Truman’s black alumni and attendee community. However, they haven’t reached their goal yet.

In order to reach the goal of raising $10,000 by Homecoming, the Black Alumni & Attendees Scholarship Committee launched the first ever Black Student Organization Challenge to alumni and attendees who are members of Greek organizations. The goal is to see which black organization can raise the most money that will benefit the Truman Black Alumni and Attendee Scholarship. The winners will be announced at this year’s Homecoming, Oct. 20-21. In addition, the winners of the challenge will receive a special recognition and the name of their organization will be placed on a plaque that will be displayed at the Multicultural Affairs Office.

They have extended this challenge to the students. Jars with each organization’s name will be placed in the Multicultural Office for student donations. The student fundraising effort will be tracked with a “barometer of giving.” The goal is for each organization to raise $75. The student organization that raises the most money will be individually recognized during the Black Alumni Reunion celebration.

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Hansen, Office of Advancement & Alumni Relations, 800.452.6678.

Beta Theta Pi Receives National Honors

Social fraternity Beta Theta Pi was honored with several awards at the fraternity’s 167th General Convention in July in Toronto, Canada.

The chapter’s accomplishments include winning the Francis H. Sisson Award, Outstanding Recruitment Program Award, Virginia Tech Award (for academics), Excellence in Risk Management Award and Campus Involvement Award.

This is the chapter’s seventh Sisson Award for such accomplishments as hosting an annual highway cleanup and the Beta Theta Spike volleyball tournament. The chapter earned a campus involvement award for outstanding involvement in campus life, student organizations and leadership positions.

On an individual basis, Matt Brawner, a senior biology major from Omaha, Neb., was honored with the Jerry M. Blesch General Secretary’s Leadership Award at an evening celebration held in conjunction with the fraternity’s national convention on June 29.

The Blesch Award recognizes an outstanding chapter leader whose vision, leadership and execution have significantly improved his chapter and its brotherhood. Brawner is a former president of Truman’s chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

14th Annual McNair Research Presentation
9-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. • Sept. 27 • Violette Hall 1000
Go to http://mcnair.truman.edu for the presentation schedule and abstracts.

University Recycling Center Changes Drop-Off Hours
Beginning Oct. 1, the Truman State University Recycling Center will only accept public drop-off items from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

The University Recycling Center will be closed on all holidays.

University of Nebraska Press' upcoming anthology, Parlor Game: Collaboration, Creativity and the World's Most Popular Parlor Game (Kantha Kochhar-Lindren, Davis Schneiderman, and Tom Denlinger, eds.)
ON CAMPUS

26 TUESDAY
3:30 p.m.-Most Live Composers Society concert, OP Performance Hall; see Notes
7-8 p.m.-Brian Keck to speak, VH 1000; see Page 2
7 p.m.-Volleyball vs. SIU-Edwardsville, Pershing Arena

27 WEDNESDAY
11 a.m.-Weekly Lunch Series for Faculty and Teaching Staff, SUB Alumni Room; see Notes
4:30 p.m.-Physics Colloquium, MG 2001; see Notes

28 THURSDAY
12:15 p.m.-Liberal Studies Roundtable meeting, Pickler Memorial Library 205; see Notes
12:30 p.m.-Biology Seminar Series, MG 2001; see Notes
1:30 p.m.-Modified supplemental retirement plan meeting, SUB Alumni Room; see Notes
5:30 p.m.-Legislative Internship Program informational meeting, BH 100; see Page 2
5:30 p.m.-Next STEP student workshop, MG 1090; see Notes
5:30 p.m.-Nursing Program Welcome Windup, SUB Lounge; see Notes
7 p.m.-Archaeology Symposium, SUB Alumni Room; see Notes
7:30 p.m.-Sacrifices in Greece informational meeting, SUB Activities Room; see Notes

29 FRIDAY
3:30 p.m.-Agricultural Seminar Series, MG 2001; see Notes
7 p.m.-Lambda Chi Alpha Miss Watermelon Pageant, Baldwin Auditorium; see Notes

30 SATURDAY
noon-Women’s soccer vs. Northwest Missouri, Soccer Park
2 p.m.-Men’s soccer vs. Northwestern (Iowa), Soccer Park

1 SUNDAY
noon-Women’s soccer vs. Missouri Western, Soccer Park

Truman Today is a weekly publication of Truman State University for students, faculty and staff. Deadline for entries is 5 p.m., the Wednesday preceding Tuesday’s publication. Entries should be submitted by sending an e-mail to kbest@truman.edu or by completing a Truman Today form available in the Public Relations Office, McClain Hall 101. The form may also be accessed online at http://trumantoday.truman.edu/submissionform.pdf. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and style.