Leo and Caroline Funk Establish Two Scholarships, Increase Another

Leo and Caroline Funk of Columbia, Mo., recently made a gift of $50,000 to establish two new scholarships and increase an existing one.

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

Leo and Caroline also established the Leo and Caroline Funk Scholarship. This fund will provide scholarship support to academically talented students of high moral character at Truman.

In addition to establishing the two new scholarships, Leo and Caroline also made an additional gift to the Katie Funk Swimming Scholarship, which they established in July of 2006. This scholarship was created 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 national championship in each of her years at Truman.

Although Leo and Caroline did not graduate from Truman, they have maintained a close and supportive relationship with the University during the years. Caroline served as a member of the Board of Regents from 1974-1977. Their recent gift to establish and increase scholarship support is reflective of their belief in the high-quality educational experiences offered to Truman students.

Truman Makes Debut in Annual Peace Corps’ Rankings

Truman State University has made its first appearance in the Peace Corps’ annual rankings of schools producing volunteers for the organization. Truman ranks 25th on their list of medium-sized schools producing Peace Corps Volunteers. Truman has 20 alumni currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers. Other schools listed in the top 25 include University of Virginia, Georgetown University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Notre Dame, Brown University and Yale.

Since Peace Corps’ inception, 154 alumni of Truman State University have joined the ranks, making it the No. 281 producer of volunteers of all time. Truman State University is also ranked No. 87 for the number of graduate school alumni participating in the program. Three Truman alumni with advanced degrees are currently serving as Volunteers.

“We strive to instill in our students the desire to be socially responsible citizens in whatever field they pursue,” said University President Barbara Dixon. “One aspect of being responsible is giving back and helping those who are less fortunate than themselves. We are very proud of the Peace Corps ranking; it is an indication of the public service values our students develop while at Truman.”

Schools are ranked according to the size of the student body. Small schools are defined as those with less than 5,000 undergraduates, medium-size schools have between 5,001 to 15,000 undergraduates, and large schools more than 15,000 undergraduates. Currently there are more than 8,000 Volunteers abroad who have made the commitment to serve 27 months. To view the entire “Peace Corps Top Colleges 2007” list, please visit the Peace Corps Web site at http://www.peacecorps.gov/news/resources/stats/pdf/schools2008.pdf.
Multicultural Affairs to Honor the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Truman State University’s Multicultural Affairs Center will be sponsoring several activities to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Truman will host the eighth annual Unity Luncheon in honor of King at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 23 in the Student Union Building Georgian Room A.

The centerpiece of the luncheon will be a 20 minute preview of “No Land’s Man: A Chapter in the Lives of Dred and Harriet Scott.” Performed by the St. Louis Black Repertory Company, this piece reflects the significance and historical struggle for human rights in Missouri.

R.S.V.P. was required in advance to attend the luncheon. Tickets are no longer available. The Martin Luther King Jr. Statewide Commission, the Center for Teaching and Learning, Multicultural Affairs Center, Sodexo and Truman’s Residential College Program are providing financial assistance for the luncheon.

The events continue with the Unity Performance “No Land’s Man: A Chapter in the Lives of Dred and Harriet Scott” at 7 p.m. Jan. 23 in Baldwin Auditorium. The St. Louis Black Repertory Company will have a special performance.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium will take place at 7 p.m. Jan. 24 in the Student Union Building Down Under. There will be insight and reflections of King as it pertains to current issues. The symposium is limited to 50 participants. Call 785.4142 to sign up. Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served.

The MLK “Read-In” will take place Jan. 24-25 at area Kirksville locations. Truman students, staff and/or faculty will be volunteering to help share the life and legacy of King. Interested in volunteering for the “Read-In” should contact Laura Bates at lbates@truman.edu or at 785.4142 for more information.

Student Research Conference Call for Papers

On April 3, Truman will have its 21st annual Student Research Conference. The Conference is a Universitywide celebration of student research, scholarship and creative achievement in all disciplines. Students in all divisions are invited and encouraged to present their scholarly or creative work.

Submission of abstracts is required for all presentations and should be carried out online at http://src.truman.edu. A copy of the information submitted will be sent electronically to the student presenter’s faculty mentor for approval.

The submission site is now open and the deadline for receiving abstracts is Feb. 8, which is the same date as for Student Research Stipend applications.

In addition to the many student presentations, the day will feature a conferencewide plenary address delivered by Steven L. Snyder, vice president of exhibit and program development at the Franklin Institute and Science Museum in Philadelphia.

Scheduled classes will not formally meet during the day of the Conference, thereby providing the opportunity for all students and faculty members to attend and fully participate.

Buchheit and Rothermel Place Twice in Debate Marathon

Six students from the Truman State University Forensic Union participated in a three-day marathon of two back-to-back 12-round debate tournaments Jan. 11-13 in Denver hosted jointly by Regis University, the University of Utah and the University of Denver. Ninety-three two-person teams converged on Denver for one of the largest varsity-level debate competitions in the country.

Mark Buchheit, a sophomore history major from Carthage, Mo., and Dylan Rothermel, a senior economics major from Homewood, Ill., reached the second round of single-elimination competition (the “double-octafinals”) in both tournaments. Their teammates, junior Chris Girouard, a junior communication major from Chesterfield, Mo.; Sara Archer, a senior accounting major from Riverside, Mo.; Dylan Clark, a freshman political science and philosophy and religion double major from Maryland Heights, Mo.; and Sara Backhaus, a freshman political science major from Liberty, Mo.; also posted strong performances at both tournaments but were narrowly-edged out of the intense single-elimination competition.
Kevin Becker, a graduate music composition student, has been awarded First Place in the West Central Division of the Music Teachers National Association Student Composition Competition: Young Artists Division, for his composition “Elegy for Strings.” This past fall, Becker’s composition received First Place in Missouri state MTNA competition. “Elegy for Strings” will now advance to the national level of the competition. The West Central Division encompasses the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska.

Tom Capuano, professor of foreign language, had his article “Una nueva versión catalana del Opus Agriculturae de Palladius” recently published in the latest edition of Romance Philology (UC Berkeley). His article describes a newly discovered medieval translation of Palladius’s book on Roman agriculture.

Taner Edis, associate professor of physics, had a paperback edition of his “Science and Nonbelief” published. Edis had his article, “Islamic Creationism: A Short History,” published in the January 2008 issue of the History of Science Society Newsletter. An original musical composition by Warren Gooch, professor of music, has been selected for performance at the 2008 combined Great Plains/ Great Lakes College Music Society Conference, to take place March 28-29 on the campus of Illinois State University. The composition, titled “The Harvest Moon,” will be performed by the Illinois State University Concert Choir under the direction of Karyl Carlson. “The Harvest Moon” was one of several works selected for performance from a pool of approximately 100 submissions.

Steve Smith, professor of mathematics, was a main invited speaker at the University of Iowa’s Heartland Partnership Workshop on Organizing and Coaching Undergraduate Math Modeling Teams. The workshop took place Dec. 8.

George Sumter, a junior computer science major from Warrensburg, Mo., and Adam Vogt, a junior physics major from Festus, Mo., presented the results of research conducted at the Truman Observatory at the Winter 2008 American Astronomical Society Meeting in Austin, Texas. Their research was carried out under the mentorship of Matthew Beaky, associate professor of physics, as part of the summer 2007 Next STEP Program. Sumter’s poster earned an Honorable Mention in the AAS Chambless Astronomy Achievement Student Awards competition.

Thomas Trimborn, professor of music, had his article “Robert Russell Bennett” published in the December issue of The Instrumentalist Magazine. It highlights the career of the man most responsible for creating the Broadway sound during the golden age of musical theater from the 1920s through the 1960s. Trimborn also has an exhibit titled “Encounters With Lincoln” that continues through June 13 at The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Ind. It features original artwork that appears in his book with the same title published by the Truman State University Press.

Art Gallery Exhibit Addresses Murder of J.R. Warren

The national tour of Rory Golden’s exhibition “See Related Story: The Murder of J.R. Warren” addressing the July 2000 violent murder of Arthur Carl “J.R.” Warren Jr., a 26-year-old black gay man, of Grant Town, W. Va., will be shown at Truman State University Art Gallery until Feb. 15. A special Sunday reception and artist’s lecture sponsored by Multicultural Affairs Center will take place at 3 p.m. Feb. 10 in the University Art Gallery.

In 2005, Golden, a Brooklyn-based visual artist, moved to live in and became part of the West Virginia community where Warren’s murder occurred. He established relationships with people who knew Warren, his friends and family, local activist individuals and organizations. Golden also researched court records, media reports and other materials related to the murder. His research informs the visual artwork in this exhibition, which includes automobile rear view mirrors and two-sided, mixed media drawings that allow viewers to consider multiple points of view on the violent incident.

Along with panel discussions, artist talks, and other programs, the project is designed to inspire dialogue in local communities and thereby foster better understanding between different sectors of society. This project has the potential to be transformational for viewers through increased awareness of socio-behavioral issues that impact everyday life and legislation.

Students May Spend a Day Lobbying in Jefferson City, Mo.

The student government of Truman invites students to be part of “Storm the Capitol” Feb. 6. Storm the Capitol will give students firsthand experience of the political environment in Jefferson City as they lobby state representatives and senators on issues that relate to the experience students have at Truman. Everyone is welcome to attend Storm the Capitol.

Students will receive transportation and lunch courtesy of the student government. There are two mandatory informational meetings at 7 p.m. Jan. 23 and Jan. 30 in Violette Hall 1010.
Hanson Named New Public Relations Intern.

The Public Relations Office has announced Kara Hanson, a senior communication studies major, as its intern for the spring semester. Hanson is from Omaha, Neb., and is a 2003 graduate of Millard North High School. She is the daughter of Jim and Deb Hanson and the oldest of two children.

As the intern, she will assist in the writing, producing and distributing of the University newsletter, Truman Today, as well as posting it online. She will also be responsible for editing the calendar on campus Channel 36, writing press releases and performing various office tasks.

Hanson’s interest in written communication and obtaining experience in other various communications outlets has led her to this position.

Truman Intramural Recreational Sports Planner

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>*Captains’ Meeting</th>
<th>Play Begins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. • Jan. 31</td>
<td>Feb. 2 and 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racquetball - Singles</td>
<td>Open/Org/Greek</td>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. • Jan. 31</td>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
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Entry forms and information sheets may be picked up at the Student Recreation Center (lobby area). Entry forms are to be deposited into the metal box located at the Member Services Desk in the Student Recreation Center. The entry deadline for each sport will be 11 p.m. on the date posted above. Online registration is available. *Captains’ Meetings for each sport will take place on the Thursday evening following the entry deadline (unless otherwise noted) at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Student Recreation Center. Official rules for each sport are available online at http://recreation.truman.edu.