Science and Mathematics Faculty Awarded More Than $2 Million in Grants

Faculty members in the School of Science and Mathematics recently received more than $2 million in grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Binational Science Foundation (BSF) to purchase equipment, provide students with scholarships, promote curricular innovations and conduct research on topics ranging from ectoparasite biology to mathematical biology.

Timothy Walston, Zhong (John) Ma, Brent Buckner, Diane Janick-Buckner and Jose Herrera received $196,304 for an NSF-MRI (Major Research Instrumentation) grant entitled, ‘Acquisition of Confocal Microscopy Instrumentation to Enhance Undergraduate Research at Truman State University.’ This grant will fund the purchase of a confocal microscope that will be placed in Truman’s Integrated Microscopy Suite. Students and faculty members of ATSU and Truman will use the microscope to study cellular process in living organisms.

Laura Fielden received $120,000 from the BSF (U.S.-Israel) for a proposal entitled, ‘Between-host phylogenetic distance and host selection in fleas.’ The U.S.-Israel BSF promotes scientific relations between the U.S. and Israel by supporting collaborative research projects between Israeli and U.S.-based researchers. This collaborative grant with faculty members at Ben Gurion University (Israel) will provide summer research opportunities in Israel for undergraduate and graduate students for up to four years.

Jason Miller, Barbara Kramer and Timothy Walston received $1.2 million for an NSF-PRISM (Proactive Recruitment in Science and Mathematics) proposal entitled, ‘Scientists Prepared, Enriched, and Challenged Through Research-based Activities (SPECTRA).’ The NSF-SPECTRA program is a five-year initiative to serve regional and national needs by increasing Truman’s capacity to recruit students to the study of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and to support those pursuing STEM baccalaureate degrees. The majority of the funds will be directed toward student scholarships, but the program also features the development of an integrative freshman seminar and three new integrative, inquiry-based courses spanning biology, chemistry and mathematics.

Pamela Ryan, Brent Buckner, Jason Miller and Jon Gering received $500,000 for an NSF-UBM (Interdisciplinary Training for Undergraduates in Biological and Mathematical Sciences) proposal entitled, ‘Integrative Research-focused Experiences and Curriculum in Mathematical Biology.’ This five-year grant provides funding for interdisciplinary research-focused learning communities and module and workshop development to support the integration of mathematics in the biology curriculum.
Glamour magazine invites students to apply for the 2010 Top 10 College Women Competition.

This competition recognizes the exceptional achievements and academic excellence of female college juniors (three-years) attending college in the United States and Canada. The competition serves as an opportunity for talented students to be rewarded for their leadership roles on campus and in the greater community. It is also an opportunity to spotlight the University.

Winners receive $3,000, coverage in an issue of the magazine and a trip to New York City where they will meet with top female professionals. Deadline for entries is Dec. 1.

The 2009 winners and the electronic application for the 2010 competition can be found at http://www.glamour.com/about/top-10-college-women.

Please direct any questions regarding the competition to attcw@glamour.com.

Author Visits Truman for Grad Week

D onald Asher, internationally acclaimed author and “America’s Job Search Guru,” continues his visit to Truman, which began Sept. 28 and runs through Oct. 2, as part of the Career Center’s annual Graduate School Week program.

Asher has published 10 books, which he wrote for online editions of the Wall Street Journal. He also works as the education columnist for MSN Encarta.

Throughout the week, Asher will give presentations on how to write a personal statement, how to go to grad school for free and how to prepare now for grad school. During the week, 10 universities will have representatives on campus to provide information about their programs.

Visiting schools include Webster University, the University of Tulsa, the University of Missouri-Columbia, A.T. Still University, Aquinas Institute and the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs. In addition, Truman will provide information about its graduate programs in accounting, biology, communication disorders, education, English and music.

For more information, visit http://career.truman.edu.

Testing Center Receives Upgrades

T he Truman Assessment and Testing Office has announced the opening of its PearsonVUE Select computer-based testing (CBT) center.

This new addition to the Assessment and Testing Office allows Truman to administer the Graduate Management Assessment Test (GMAT) exam for students wishing to pursue advanced study in business and management, as well as the Health Fitness Specialist (HFS) exam for exercise science majors.

In addition, the Assessment and Testing Office continues to offer the general GRE, Praxis I, MCAT, and TOEFL tests in their ETS CBT.

Hours of operation for both CBT centers, and more information about other exams offered by Assessment and Testing, can be found on the office website at http://testing.truman.edu.

Forensics Team Opens Season with Wins

I n the first weekend of competition for the semester, members of the Truman Forensics Union opened their season with multiple wins on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., at the annual Boilermaker Special Forensics Tournament. Truman took second place in Debate Sweepstakes, which is a measure of overall team quality, and earned nine new qualifications to the national championship tournament.

The weekend’s victories placed Truman ahead of colleges from Texas, Michigan and across the Midwest, including perennial Lincoln-Douglas contenders Central Michigan University.

In Lincoln-Douglas, all four of the debaters advanced to elimination rounds, qualifying the entire varsity squad for competition at the national championship tournament next March.

Sophomores Christian Johns (Carthage, Mo.) and Elizabeth Hatting (Omaha, Neb.) were tournament co-champions after winning their semifinal rounds. Juniors Sarah Backhaus (Liberty, Mo.) and Dylan Clark (St. Louis, Mo.) were quarterfinalists.

In individual events, freshman Jessica Petrie (Bellville, Ill.) placed first in Impromptu Speaking and second in Extemporaneous Speaking in her first collegiate competition.

Senior Susan Presley (Austin, Texas) also placed sixth in Impromptu. Sophomore Andrew Grojean (Blue Springs, Mo.) placed second in After Dinner Speaking and fifth in Prose Interpretation.

“Anytime you can break 100 percent of your debate slots, that shows a level of intensity that will serve the team well over the course of a season,” said Kris Stroup, varsity debate coach.

Next week, the team travels to Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., for another competition.

Anyone interested in competing in forensics should contact Kristi Scholten, director of forensics, at kscholten@truman.edu.
NOTABLES

Michael R. Bump, associate professor of music, served as Artist-Faculty and Principal Timpanist at the 2009 Sewanee Summer Music Festival in Sewanee, Tenn. During the five-week festival, he performed the U.S. premiere of Academy Award-Winning composer George Fenton’s, “Five Parts of the Dance” with Festival colleagues Russell DeVuyst, associate principal trumpet, Montreal Symphony, and Regina Yeh, professor of piano, Pacific Lutheran University.


Stephanie Vandas, a 2009 graduate, received a $1,000 Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarship for graduate study at the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

New Faculty Participate in Orientation Activities


McClanahan Nominates Thomas for Award

Representative Rebecca McClanahan (pictured left) nominated Bertha Thomas, assistant dean of Multicultural Affairs, (pictured right) for the DeVerne Lee Calloway Award, which is given annually by the Women Legislators of Missouri organization in honor of Missouri’s first African-American woman state representative. The award is given in recognition of community service and commitment to social justice. Thomas was one of six nominees for the award, which went to Kathleen Hanrahan, director of the YWCA, St. Louis Regional Sexual Assault Center.

MAC Offers Diversity Enhancement Grants

This year, the Multicultural Affairs Center will offer Diversity Enhancement Grants to students, faculty and staff members who support cultural months.

For example, November is Native American Heritage Month, another cultural month or any other programs that support Truman’s diversity mission.

For more information about Diversity Enhancement Grants, please review the website at http://mac.truman.edu or contact Kati Smith, Programming Coordinator at the MAC, at 785.4142 or by e-mail at ksmith@truman.edu.

YOGA & MEDITATION WORKSHOP

The Art of Living Club will offer an intensive yoga and meditation workshop Oct. 2-5. An informational/registration meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Sept. 29 in McClain 208. All of the Truman community, including faculty, staff and students, as well as the Kirksville community, are welcome to attend. Learn to stretch, breathe and relax into a higher experience of living. For more information, contact Lloyd Pfeuger at Lloyd@truman.edu.

COLUMBINUS

by the United States Theatre Project
8-10 p.m.
Oct. 7-10
Ophelia Parrish Severens Theatre
Free Admission


Sponsored by the Truman Theatre Department. For more information, contact Elizabeth Necks at enecka@truman.edu.

The Writing Center Now Offers Online Scheduling

Create and manage your Writing Center appointments online. If you’ve used the Writing Center before, then you can go straight to the scheduler: http://www.rich75.com/truman. Go to http://writingcenter.truman.edu or drop by the Writing Center in McClain 303 for details.
NOTES

The Weekly Lunch Series continues with its fall series on Teaching for Critical Thinking at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 30 in the Spanish Room of the Student Union Building. Matt Beaky from the Physics Department will discuss the New Student Research Office and the New Student Grant Process.

The Global Issues Colloquium features Baldwin speaker, Alan Guskin, who will present, “In the Beginning: Peace Corps,” at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 in Magruder Hall 2001. Truman faculty and others will share their experiences with the Peace Corps. In addition, the Career Center will present information on applying to the Peace Corps.

The Weekly Lunch Series presents a special session with Alan Guskin at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 1 in the Student Union Building Spanish Room.

The 2009 Baldwin Dinner and Lecture will take place at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 1. Alan Guskin, University President Emeritus from Antioch University, will speak on, “The Courage to Change: Higher Education Facing 21st Century Realities.” Sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) will meet at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at the University Club House, located at 516 E. Patterson. Contact Marc Becker at marc@truman.edu or call 785.6036 for more information.

The Rho Omega Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society of Nursing will host a series of events beginning at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 3 in the Student Union Building. The luncheon begins at 12:30 p.m. and is followed by a speaker and the induction ceremony for new members at 1:30 p.m. Induction ceremony reservations are required for lunch. The topic of the presentation, “Human-Companion Animal Interaction: Health for Both Ends of the Leash,” will be presented by Rebecca A. Johnson Ph.D., RN, FAAN, from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association in Quincy, Ill., will present Istvan Szabo on viola at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 3 in the Quincy Junior High School Morrison Theater on the corner of 14th and Maine St. Tickets are free with a Truman ID.

A University Orchestra concert will take place Oct. 3 at 8 p.m. in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Musical selections include works by Bach and Beethoven. Admission is free.

JujiTSU Men’s Ultimate will host a 3-on-3 tournament beginning at 10 a.m. Oct. 4 in Stokes Stadium. Registration is $20 per team of five. Interested teams should e-mail Dennis Tarasi at Dennis@truman.edu with their team name and members or call him at 224.385.8241.

Thomas Trimborn, professor of music, will present “Encounters with Lincoln Through the Arts,” during a faculty forum at 7 p.m. Oct. 7 in Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Admission is free.

The Men’s Basketball Team is selling Truman Basketball apparel. Orders are due by Oct. 15. For more information contact Tim Deidrick at 785.4272 or deidrick@truman.edu.

The Rhapsody in Red Heart Gala will take place Nov. 7. All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association. For more information, contact Amy Currier at acurrier@truman.edu or call 660.785.4215. To pick up an application, stop by the International Student Affairs Office in Kirk Building 120.

Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Students may pick up applications for the 2009-2010 award in the Dean of Student Affairs Office, located in the Student Union Building 3100. To qualify, students should be active on campus and in the community, have a 2.7 GPA, and be a senior eligible for graduation in December, May or August of the 2009-10 academic year. Completed student applications must be returned to the Student Affairs Office by Oct. 19. For more information visit http://saffairs.truman.edu or call 785.4111.

Grant Proposals for Excursion/Field Trip Opportunities The Dean of Student Affairs asks Truman faculty and staff to submit grant proposals for excursion/field trip opportunities for students. For information on past recipients, as well as grant requirements, please visit http://saffairs.truman.edu/stuff/field_initiatives.asp. Proposals are due to the Dean of Student Affairs Office in Student Union Building 3100 by Oct. 1.

Looking for a fun way to make new friends and learn about other cultures? Join International Friends! The International Student Affairs Office is looking for local families and community members to participate in its program. For more information, contact Adam Conway at adconway@truman.edu or by calling 660.785.4215. To pick up an application, stop by the International Student Affairs Office in Kirk Building 120.