“Bright Minds Bright Futures” Marks Truman’s First Fundraising Campaign

Truman State University has publicly launched a $30 million comprehensive fundraising campaign designed to generate private gift dollars to address high priorities of the University. The announcement of Truman’s first-ever fundraising campaign entitled “Bright Minds Bright Futures” was made by President Darrell W. Krueger and Campaign Chair Chuck Foudree at a press conference and alumni banquet during Homecoming 2009 festivities.

“This campaign will position Truman to fulfill its aspiration of becoming the nation’s premier public liberal arts and sciences university,” said Krueger. “Each priority is important to Truman’s future and will help provide margin of excellence resources that only private gifts can achieve.”

Campaign priorities were determined through a collaborative planning process that began in 2005 and included input from campus faculty and staff, from key University stakeholders, and all integrated with the University’s strategic plan. The key areas being supported through “Bright Minds Bright Futures” include:

- Student Scholarships—$7.5 million for merit and need-based scholarships;
- Student Enrichment and Academic Program Support—$7.5 million for academic programs and out-of-classroom student learning experiences;
- Faculty Support—$2 million for endowed chairs, professorships and fellowships;
- Athletics—$3 million for athletic facilities, programs and scholarships;
- Legacy Gifts—$10 million in new deferred commitments through bequests.

The campaign’s $30 million goal includes $20 million in current gifts and multi-year pledges, and $10 million in future gift commitments as donors include the University in their estate plans.

Truman entered the advance gifts phase of the five-year campaign, designed to raise a significant portion of the goal prior to the public announcement, on July 1, 2006. To date, the campaign has received $18.61 million in gifts and commitments from 16,422 donors.

The campaign has already had a substantial impact on the lives of students. To date, a total of 104 new funds have been established, including 64 new scholarship funds. For 2009-2010 Truman is projecting to award $533,050 in scholarships to 551 students.

Several signature gift commitments have been secured, including a $2.87 million gift from the Holman family for study-abroad stipends, distinguished speaker series and graduate scholarships, and $1.5 million from Dr. Greg A. Gerhardt for a professorship in chemistry/biology and to create a summer research fellowship program.

“As I consider the future of Truman, we must ensure that future generations of students have the best possible educational experience to equip them for the challenges of our new global world,” said Foudree, campaign chair, 1966 alumnus and retired executive vice president of Harmon Industries in Blue Springs, Mo. “And private giving is the most effective and efficient way to provide the best students, faculty, programs and facilities for Truman to achieve its full potential.”

Foudree leads a campaign steering committee of 11 alumni and friends from across the country who will be overseeing the fundraising effort. The campaign’s honorary chair is Dr. Charles McClain, who served as University President from 1970-1989.

The initiative now enters its public phase, where regional campaigns have been established in Truman’s major markets, and all constituents will be asked to participate. More than 80 volunteers have been recruited to assist in the effort, which runs until the campaign concludes on June 30, 2011.
Career Expo Event Checklist

11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Oct. 21  
Student Union Building  
Before the Expo:  
• Register for the Career Expo at http://career.truman.edu  
• Prepare résumé and have it critiqued in the Career Center  
• Research attending companies  
• Prepare your professional attire  
• Practice your introduction  

During the Expo:  
• Have several copies of your résumé  
• Visit as many companies as possible and NETWORK!  

More than 80 companies have registered to attend, including Cerner Corporation, Edward Jones, Target, Boeing and more.

Explorer Visits Truman for Lyceum Event

Jean-Michel Cousteau, explorer, environmentalist, educator and film producer, will share his experiences during the second Lyceum event of the semester at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 in Baldwin Auditorium.

For more than four decades, Cousteau has used his vast experience to communicate his love and concern for the earth and its water with people of all nations and generations.

Cousteau began exploring the ocean realm at the age of seven when his father “threw him overboard” with newly invented scuba gear on his back. The son of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, he spent much of his life with his family exploring the world’s oceans. After his mother’s death in 1990 and his father’s death in 1997, Cousteau founded Ocean Futures Society. He formed the non-profit marine conservation and education organization in 1999 in order to carry on the pioneering work of his family. Cousteau serves as president of the society.

Cousteau is an impassioned spokesman and diplomat for the environment, and he reaches out to the public through a variety of media. He has produced more than 70 films and has received numerous awards: the Emmy, the Peabody Award, the 7 d’Or (the French equivalent of the Emmy) and the Cable ACE Award.

In addition to his awards for film, his book, “Jean-Michel Cousteau’s America’s Underwater Treasures,” has received two prestigious awards in the independent publishing world, the 2008 Benjamin Franklin Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book (Non-Fiction) and the 2008 IPPY Gold Medal Award for best book in the environment/ecology/nature category.

Acting on a childhood dream to build cities under the sea, Cousteau pursued a degree in architecture and graduated from the Paris School of Architecture in 1964. Recently, he has worked with the Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort, designed to demonstrate an environmentally responsible and culturally appropriate ocean-oriented resort.

Tickets for Cousteau’s presentation go on sale Oct. 14. Students can pick up their free ticket by presenting a Truman ID at the Student Activities Board Office, located in the lower level of the Student Union Building. Faculty and staff may receive their free tickets by showing their Truman ID at the Information Center in the Student Union Building. General admission tickets cost $7 for adults and $4 for those 18 and under and may be purchased downtown at Edna Campbell’s or at the Truman Cashier’s Window in McClain Hall.

“Knowledge is Power” Promotes Values of Higher Education to Middle School Students in Local Rural Areas

Area middle school students will be on campus Oct. 19 to shadow current Truman students and experience college life as part of the University’s new “Knowledge is Power” program.

Wendy Miner, chair of the Department of Education, along with Darl Davis, director of the Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) applied for and received a Faculty Academic Initiative Grant through the Provost’s Office to support Knowledge is Power.

“Knowledge is Power” focuses on the promotion of higher education within the Milan and Green City school districts, specifically toward seventh grade students. The main goal is to assist students from low socio-economic backgrounds in realizing college is an option and to provide them with the tools and support in discovering the best option for the individual.

“We would love to see them come to Truman, but if they don’t, that’s fine. The program will still be successful,” Davis said.

Davis, who went through the Upward Bound program at Truman during high school, said he is just trying to give something back to the community.

“You see so many students with so much potential, but because of home or economic situations, they never go ahead and take advantage of continuing education,” he said.

The program will be hosting 65 to 75 students from Milan and Green City during an event Oct. 19 on campus. Senior Lisa Busalacki has spearheaded the event and is working with on-campus organizations to recruit volunteers.

The students will arrive at Truman at 9 a.m. when they will be divided into groups and given a tour of campus hitting four prime locations: a residence hall room, Stokes Stadium, the Student Recreation Center and the natatorium. The students will then be welcomed by Troy Paino, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Truman volunteers and the Milan and Green City students filled out interest surveys allowing each volunteer to be paired with a student with like interests for the day. The students will shadow the volunteers for two hours while they experience a part of campus that pertains to their interests.

Popular requests were to visit the University Farm, the herpetology museum, the ROTC office and the radio station, among others. The day ends with lunch in one of the on-campus dining halls.

“To be able to show them that college is fun, and there are a lot of really awesome things you can do. I think it’s really important,” Busalacki said.
NOTABLES

Zhong (John) Ma, assistant professor of biology, Todd Hammond, professor of mathematics and computer science, along with their students Yu-yu Ren, a biology major and Bo Forrester, a math and computer science major, had their paper “A Computer-Assisted Mathematical Image Analysis Method for Quantifying Gravitropic Curvature in Plant Roots,” accepted for publication in the Journal of Interdisciplinary Mathematics. The research was supported by Truman’s grant from the National Science Foundation’s Interdisciplinary Training for Undergraduates in Biology and Mathematics Program under Grant No. 0436348, “Research-focused Learning Communities in Mathematical Biology,” and Grant No. 0337769, “Mathematical Biology Initiative.” The work also received valuable support from science machinist T.W. Sorrell and Truman undergraduate biology majors Allison Schaefer, Jenna Landwehr, James Franklin and Jeremy Oliver.

Barbara Price, associate professor of English/English education, participated in the Iowa Council of Teachers of English conference in Des Moines, Iowa Oct. 1-2. Price and MAE student Chelsie Neufeld, who currently is completing her teaching internship in the St. Louis area, gave a presentation, “Multiple Voices/Reading and Writing Multigenre Texts.” Truman MAE students Kelly Dillon, Amanda Happy and Deana Judah also attended the conference.

Folk Music and Dancing Recreate Lincoln’s Time

The Lincoln Bicentennial celebration moves toward its conclusion with the campus visit of David Para and Cathy Barton from Boonville, Mo., national figures in traditional American folk music.

Their evening concert, “Songs of the Brothers’ War,” will provide an hour of partisan songs from the great crisis of Lincoln’s presidency, in Georgiano Room B Oct. 19 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Following an intermission, attendees may dance to Barton and Para’s music for a second hour: circle, line, contra and square-dances, such as Lincoln and friends would have danced to during his prairie years, will be called by Bob Nothdurft until 10 p.m.

Para and Barton are husband and wife singer-songwriter-instrumentalists who are nationally and internationally known for their interpretations of American folk music. They perform regularly in several folk festivals around the country, they have appeared on the Grand Ole Opry, and they serve as artistic directors of the “Big Muddy Folk Festival” held each year in Boonville, Mo. This fall they’ll take a touring company, “Gumbo Bottoms,” to Washington, Mo., Nov. 21-22. Their last visit to Truman was at the 2003 state conference of the Missouri Folklore Society. Learn more at http://bartonpara.com.

Nothdurft, retired professor and occasional lecturer in physics, plays and sings with several bands and regularly calls local dances.

There will be no charge for either the concert or the folk-dance, thanks to the Schwengel endowment for Pickler’s Lincoln collection and the annual Lincoln Competitions in oratory, essay and art. For further information about the final events of the Lincoln Bicentennial on campus, go to http://Lincoln200.truman.edu.

Exhibit Reflects on Bicentennial of Lincoln’s Birth

An exhibit of artwork reflecting upon race and coinciding with the year of Lincoln’s bicentennial, will be on display from Oct. 20 through Nov. 20 in the Truman Art Gallery in Ophelia Parrish.

Entitled “American Race,” the exhibition features contemporary art conceived as a reflection on the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth, which serves as the midpoint between the settlement of Jamestown and the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Peter Fine, assistant professor of graphic design at New Mexico State University, and Aaron fine, associate professor of art and gallery director at Truman, curated the exhibit.


An opening reception for the exhibit will take place at 6 p.m. Oct. 20. In addition, a roundtable discussion on race will take place at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 27 in the gallery.

The Department of Art and the Department of Society and Environment are presenting the events and exhibit, which have received generous support from the Schwengel Lincoln Fund and the Office of the Provost.

The Missouri Arts Council has also provided financial assistance.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit http://tsugallery.wordpress.com, or contact Aaron Fine at 785.5386 or afine@truman.edu.

Mid-Term Break Special Hours at the Student Recreation Center

Oct. 14-6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Oct. 15-11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Oct. 16-11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Oct. 17-11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Oct. 18-4 p.m.-7 p.m.
British Debaters Visit Truman While on Tour

For the third time this decade the National Debate Team of the United Kingdom will visit Truman as part of its annual tour of United States colleges and universities. They will challenge debaters from the Truman Forensic Union in an exhibition debate on the topic “Resolved: China represents more of a threat than an opportunity,” at 7 p.m. Oct. 20 in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

The British recommended the topic, and they will affirm the resolution, as Truman’s debaters negate it.

The English Speaking Union in London selected the British debaters and the Committee for International Discussion and Debate (CIDD) of the National Communication Association is sponsoring the team. Junior political science major, Sarah Backhaus (Liberty, Mo.) and sophomore political science major, Christian Johns (Carthage, Mo.) will represent Truman. Backhaus has represented Truman at three consecutive national championship tournaments, and Johns reached the sweet sixteen of the national tournament as a freshman last season.

Both are having highly successful seasons this year, and both have already secured qualifications to the national championships in April.

The visiting team is sponsored by Pi Kappa Delta, a National Forensics Honor Society, with financial support from the Funds Allotment Council. The Truman Institute and faculty of the Department of Communication have provided logistical support. For more information on the event, contact Kevin Minch at kminch@truman.edu or 785.5384.