

# TRUMAN

*A Weekly Publication for Students, Faculty, and Staff*



T O D A Y

Vol. 8, No. 13

Nov. 11, 2003

*In honor of the  
Installation of  
Barbara Dixon as  
Truman State University's  
14th president,  
the Board of Governors  
invites you to a  
Musical Celebration  
featuring  
Truman's Wind  
Symphony Band,  
Cantoria and the  
University Symphony  
Orchestra  
at  
8 p.m.  
Nov. 13  
in Baldwin Auditorium*

*No R.S.V.P.s needed.*

## Installation Ceremony for President Dixon to Incorporate Theme "A Celebration of Academic Excellence"

The Installation of Barbara Dixon as the 14th president of Truman State University will feature Truman students, faculty and staff as they promote the theme "A Celebration of Academic Excellence." The celebration will be kicked off Nov. 13 as Truman's premiere performing musical groups will perform in honor of Dixon's installation. The performance will feature Truman's Wind Symphony Band, Cantoria and the University Symphony Orchestra and the concert will begin at 8 p.m. in Baldwin Auditorium.

Student organizations at Truman were invited to participate in a Presidential Installation Banner Contest with the theme of "Welcoming President Dixon." The banners will be on display on Pickler Memorial Library and the south side of McClain Hall. Three student organizations with the top banners will receive a prize of \$100. Additionally, up to 25 members of the winning organization will have a special dinner with Dixon at the University Residence.

The actual installation ceremony will be held at 3 p.m., Nov. 14, in Baldwin Auditorium. The ceremony also will be aired on Channel 36.

A welcome and introductions will be given by Randa Rawlins, Truman Board of Governors member and mistress of ceremonies. Several speakers will bring greetings on behalf of the different groups they were chosen to represent. They include

Mayor of Kirksville William Murray; Jim Bergman, National Alumni Association president; Michael Shelton, Student Senate president; Marianna Giovannini, staff representative; and Bryce Jones, Faculty Senate president.

After a musical interlude by the Truman Wind Symphony, Kenneth H. Levison, vice president for administration at the State University of New York College at Geneseo, will speak. Thomas R. Jayne, president of the Truman Board of Governors, will perform the installation ceremony followed by remarks by Dixon.

A reception will immediately follow the ceremony in the Student Union Building Quiet Lounge.

In keeping with the theme "In Celebration of Academic Excellence," each of the seven degree granting divisions, plus Library and Museums, the Residential College Program, Athletics and Student Affairs have developed posters to showcase Academic Excellence in their various areas. These posters are being displayed in the Student Union Building and can be viewed during the reception.

All members of the University community are encouraged to attend the Thursday evening musical celebration and the installation ceremony. If you have not already responded to the President's Office for the installation ceremony, please do so at 785.4100.

### Parking Lots to Close

*The parking lot between McClain Hall and the Student Union Building and the lot directly across Normal Street from Baldwin Hall will be closed Nov. 14 for the President's Installation.*

## TRUMAN HONORS AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

### Food and Giveaways

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Nov. 13

the SUB Mall

*Truman's festivities will be held in honor of the nationally-celebrated America Recycles Day on Nov. 15.*

Student Senate will give away hot chocolate, along with a variety of recycled materials, including pencils made out of recycled money, and magnets promoting recycling.

Howard Worcester, Truman's recycling coordinator, will have information and examples of what Truman recycles.

For more information, call Worcester at 785.7672 or visit the Recycling Web site at <http://physicalplant.truman.edu/recycling.htm>.

## FEEL LIKE GIVING?

**TRUMAN ORGANIZATIONS  
OFFER A NUMBER OF  
CHARITABLE EVENTS**

### Red Cross Blood Drive

11 a.m.-4 p.m. ♦ Nov. 11-13

SUB Activities Room

*Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega*

### Lollipop Sale to Benefit Alzheimer's Research

10 a.m.-4 p.m. ♦ Nov. 14

entrance to McClain Hall

*Sponsored by Sigma Kappa*

### "Rockin' Out for Charity"

### Live Music Concert to Benefit the American Cancer Society and the Adair County Humane Society

7-10 p.m. ♦ Nov. 15

SUB Down Under

*Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega*

### "Whose Line is it Anyway?" to Benefit Habitat for Humanity

7 p.m. ♦ Nov. 14

Baldwin Hall Little Theater

*Sponsored by Habitat for  
Humanity*

# Interview Project Provides Insight About Student Perspectives

*This article is the second of several articles that will discuss how assessment is being used at Truman.*

*Prepared by Christy Dixon*

Last spring's Interview Project provides specific information helpful in understanding and evaluating the University from many different student perspectives. Several main categories naturally emerged from their responses. This article focuses on student notions of faculty interactions and educational experiences.

One question asked how student interaction with faculty members, both in and out of the classroom, contributed to their liberal arts education. First-year and upper-class (more than 85 credit hours) student responses differed significantly (at a 5 percent level) with 58 percent of first-year students indicating that a professor's personal interest in and willingness to help them was a major contributor to their liberal arts education. While still important to them, only 43 percent of the upper-class students interviewed described similar feelings. In a related theme, upper-class and first-year students also differed significantly (53 to 35 percent) in their discussion of the importance of a more personal relationship with their professors contributing positively to their education, not so much though in terms of becoming close personal friends, but rather in the sense of an attitude of trust and friendship. Some of the upper-class students feeling this way even went so far as expressing belief that the comfort level with a professor could influence positively the student's success in class. Other students mentioned examples including an incident of illness or death when a professor went out of his or her way to help the student catch up and expressed the important contribution that office visits made to their education. Students also mentioned their appreciation of professors who made themselves more available to them, even to the extent of giving out a home phone number.

When asked what they thought distinguished a successful educator, 40 percent of first-year students described a sociable or friendly manner towards students. Upper-class students again differed significantly in this perspective with only 27 percent describing this as an important characteristic. The most frequently mentioned characteristic for both groups was the importance of an educator's concern for and interest in students. Specific comments included the mention of educators who would supplement textbook material with their own knowledge and experiences in the field, the importance of

good communication skills, and the need to be up-to-date on any current technology associated with his/her field of expertise.

Students were also asked what, aside from grades, distinguished a successful student. More upper-class than first-year students (59 to 47 percent) described a successful student as someone who really learned the material he or she studied. Similarly, the ability to apply that material was also more important to upper-class than to first-year students (37 to 22 percent). Several first-year students responded that successful students would not put their grades above learning. Between 25 and 30 percent of students in both groups believed that developing relationships with professors and other students was important to a student's success as well as participation in out-of-class activities and social experiences. Although not a theme that many chose to comment on, one upper-class student characterized successful students as those who could accomplish things independently and think for themselves.

More than half of all students described the key characteristics of a liberally educated person as including well roundedness, diverse interests, and many experiences. It was important to about a third of all students that a liberally educated student be articulate and skilled in many different academic areas, a kind of renaissance person. In comparison to only 14 percent of first-year students, 31 percent of upper-class students, mentioned open-mindedness a characteristic of liberally educated people. Students who mentioned open-mindedness seemed to indicate an appreciation of diverse ideas as well as diverse people. A few students in both groups mentioned foreign language ability as an indicator of a liberally educated individual, but only one student from the upper-class group responded that liberally educated people would be up-to-date on current affairs and somewhat liberal in their political views.

When asked what distinguished a good educational experience from just taking a class, more than half of those interviewed spoke about knowledge of the subject area. Another important quality of a good educational experience mentioned by more than a third of the interviewees was a student's ability to relate or apply the material to real-life situations. Many students noted that a good educational experience often depends upon the enthusiasm of the educator. Some other commonly mentioned characteristics were enjoyment of the class, retention of the material, and stimulation of the students' interests.

# Notables

**Taner Edis, assistant professor of physics,** spoke to the North Texas Skeptics concerning his 2003 book, "The Ghost in the Universe," in Dallas on Nov. 8. He also will speak to the Rationalist Society of St. Louis on Nov. 15.

**Jerrold Hirsch, professor of history,** recently had his book "Portrait of America: A Cultural History of the Federal Writers' Project," published by the University of North Carolina Press. He also presented a paper, "'Have You Discovered America?': Folklorists, the Federal Writers' Project, and the National Endowment for the Humanities," at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society in Albuquerque, N.M. Hirsch recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to serve as a consultant for a documentary about the Federal Writers' Project titled "American Voices."

**Ray Jagger, director of telephone services,** has been reappointed by Gov. Bob Holden to the Missouri Fire Education Commission. The reappointment is subject to confirmation by the Missouri Senate.

**Melanee Crist, international student adviser; Cherayla Davis, multicultural affairs program coordinator; and Fadzai Smout, senior communication major from Zimbabwe;** presented a session on

"Connecting African and African American Student's Lives Through Performances: Extending Cultures to Rural Missouri" at the Region IV NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference Nov. 3 in Kansas City, Mo. The presentation highlighted the outcomes of a diversity project that was supported by a \$5,000 grant. The grant, from NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the U.S. Department of State, was written by Crist and **Bertha Thomas, assistant dean of multicultural affairs.**

**Three Truman music composition students** received recognition from the Missouri Music Teacher Association this past week in the 2003 MMTA Student Composition Competition. **Mitchell Toebben, senior music major from Jefferson City, Mo.,** received second place for his "Fantasy for Saxophone and Piano." **Kerrith Livengood, graduate student from Springfield, Mo.,** received third place for "Trio for Flute, Violin and Cello." **Adam Hardin, senior music major from Louisville, Ky.,** received honorable mention for "Composition No. 3" for solo piano. The three students study with **Warren Gooch, professor of music.**

## "Grad School Week" Events Provide Students a Closer Look at Graduate Programs

Truman's University Career Center is hosting "Grad School Week," a series of events designed to show students the opportunities waiting for them after graduation.

Representatives from the University of Missouri Graduate Program will be available to meet with interested students from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Nov. 11, outside Mainstreet Market.

Royce Kallerud will conduct a seminar on "Writing the Personal Statement" from 5-6 p.m., Nov. 11, in Violette Hall 1000. Also, Kaplan Test Prep Representatives will be on campus from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Nov. 12, outside Mainstreet Market to meet with students who have any questions about graduate school entrance exams.

Nationally recognized author and

speaker Don Asher will present "Bound for Graduate School? Strategies to Gain Admission to Highly Competitive Graduate Programs" from 1-2 p.m., Nov. 12, in Violette Hall 1000. Asher also will present "Cracking the Hidden Job Market: How to Beat 1,000 to 1 Odds to Land a Dream Job in Any Economy" from 3-4:30 p.m., Nov. 12, in Violette Hall 1000.

Asher is a nationally known speaker and writer on the topics of careers and higher education. All eight of the books he has written are available in the Career Center Resource Library, including "Graduate Admission Essays" and "The Overnight Résumé."

For more information, call the University Career Center at 785.4353.

## Dance Craze

### Weekend

*Sponsored by the University Swingers*

### West Coast Swing Workshop

8:30-10 p.m. ♦ Nov. 14  
Pershing Small Gym  
Cost is \$4 per person.

### Formal Workshop: Waltz, Foxtrot and Tango

1-3 p.m. ♦ Nov. 15  
Pershing Small Gym  
Cost is \$4 per person.

### "SHAG plus Salsa" Workshop

3-5 p.m. ♦ Nov. 15  
Pershing Small Gym  
Cost is \$4 per person.

### Saturday Night Dance

9 p.m.-midnight ♦ Nov. 15  
Pershing Small Gym  
Cost is \$2 per person or free with a ticket from any of the workshops.

### "You Call It!" Workshop

1-3 p.m. ♦ Nov. 16  
Pershing Small Gym  
Cost is \$4 per person.

Tickets for all workshops are on sale Nov. 10-14 in the SUB or at the door.

For more information, contact Lauren at 785.7177.

## Music Performances

### NATS Recital

8 p.m. • Nov. 11  
OP Performance Hall

### Senior Recital-Andy Lee

5:30 p.m. • Nov. 12  
OP Performance Hall

### Jazz Lab Band & Combos

8 p.m. • Nov. 12  
OP Performance Hall

### Graduate Orchestral Conducting Recital

7 p.m. • Nov. 14  
OP Performance Hall

### Junior Violin Recital

8 p.m. • Nov. 15  
OP Performance Hall

### Fall Percussion Ensemble Concert

8 p.m. • Nov. 17  
Baldwin Auditorium

### Attention 2003 December Graduation Candidates

Graduation clearance packets were mailed to your current address on Nov. 3. If you have not received your packet, call the Registrar's Office at 785.4143 or e-mail registrar@truman.edu. This packet is a graduation requirement and must be completed by Nov. 21.

# Notes

**Two new exhibits will be on display in the University Art Gallery through Nov. 21.** The 2004 Juried Student Exhibit displays the artwork of talented Truman students. "A Strong Foundation" features selected works from students in the studio foundations program. For more information, call Aaron Fine at 785.5386. **An additional class is being offered for the Spring 2004 semester: LLFL 429-Study in Foreign Language: Elementary Wolof.** Wolof is a West African language spoken in the Senegambian region and parts of Mali and Mauritania. For more information, call the instructor, Sana Camara, at 785.5297.

**The Campus Recreation Office will be giving free fitness assessments** from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 12-14 and again Nov. 17-19, in the conference room of the Campus Recreation Office. Interested students, faculty and staff must sign up in the Campus Recreation Office during hours listed above.

**The Center for Teaching and Learning will continue the Weekly Lunch Series for faculty, teaching staff and GTRAs** with a session from 12:30-1:15 p.m., Nov. 12, in the SUB Spanish Room. This week's session will feature two faculty members from the University of Missouri-Columbia who are ambassadors for the Wakonse experience. For more information, call 785.4477.

**The men's basketball free throw competition is approaching.** Contact Jack Schrader at 785.4171 or [schrader@truman.edu](mailto:schrader@truman.edu) by Nov. 13 to get a team ready for the 7th annual Bulldog Halftime Free Throw Contest. Participants may win \$100 for their organization, group, department or team.

**Kareem Black, photographer for Honey, People, Source, XXL and Vibe, will speak** at 7 p.m., Nov. 13, in the BH Little Theater. Admission is free. For more information, contact Cherayla Davis at 785.4590.

**Lambda Pi Eta will sponsor a Public Relations Panel** at 7 p.m., Nov. 13, in BH 303. Area public relations practitioners will discuss career-related topics, answer questions and facilitate discussion. There is no cost and all majors are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Melissa Dondlinger at 627.2095.

**Johann Holt from the University of Missouri-Columbia and Terry Olson will give presentations at the Global Issues Colloquium** from 7-9 p.m., Nov. 13, in the SUB Alumni Room. The topic is "Limits to Growth-Environmental and Economic Issues" Call the Center for Teaching and Learning at 785.4477 for more information. **The 14th Annual Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference** is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 15, and from noon-4 p.m., Nov. 16, in

the SUB Alumni Room. For more information, contact Dereck Daschke at 785.6005.

**Campus Recreation will be sponsoring a food drive to benefit NEMO Senior Citizens Nov. 17-25.** Donations will be collected outside of the Student Recreation Center Aerobic Room. **Student Senate will hold their annual Project Outreach reception for all faculty, staff and administration** from 4:30-6 p.m., Nov. 18, in the VH Lounge. The event is free to attend and refreshments will be served.

**Considering Safe Zone training?** A session will be offered from 1-2:30 p.m., Nov. 18, in PML 205. The workshop will feature case studies and discussion. Contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at 785.4477 for more information.

**The Division of Fine Arts will present "Morning Star"** at 8 p.m., Nov. 18-22, in the OP Courtyard Theatre. The play lasts approximately two hours. Tickets are \$2 and may be purchased in advance at the Box Office in Ophelia Parrish, or placed on reserve by calling 785.4515.

**Truman's newest cultural organization, the Club for Italian Appreciation and Outreach (CIAO),** will hold its first meeting at 8 p.m., Nov. 19, in the VH Lounge. Food will be served. Any interested students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and all nationalities are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Palombo at 665.0061.

**Truman's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) will meet** at 9 a.m., Nov. 20, at the University Club. For more information, contact Marc Becker at 785.6036.

**The University Observatory will be open to the public** from 8-10:30 p.m., Nov. 20. The Observatory's new location is at the University Farm. For more information, call Michael Adams at 785.4088.

**USA Today is now accepting nominations for its 2004 All-USA Academic Team.** To nominate a student, go to <http://allstars.usatoday.com> and download the form. Nominations must be postmarked by Dec. 1. For more information, e-mail [USA Today@allstars.usatoday.com](mailto:USA Today@allstars.usatoday.com).

**Interested in teaching in France next year?** Applications and information are available at <http://www.frenchculture.org/education/support/assistant/2004-05.html>. For more information, e-mail Gregg Siewert at [gsiewert@truman.edu](mailto:gsiewert@truman.edu).

**The One of Our Own Campaign announces that Brian Archibald is now cancer-free.** They would like to thank the people on campus and in the community who helped Archibald through this difficult time. Archibald will not forget the generosity and kindness he received.

# On Campus

## 11 TUESDAY

11 a.m.-4 p.m.-**Red Cross Blood Drive, SUB Activities Room;** see Page 2

## 12 WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m.-**Senior Recital-Andy Lee, OP Performance Hall;** see Page 3

8 p.m.-**Jazz Lab Band & Combos Concert, OP Performance Hall;** see Page 3

## 13 THURSDAY

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.-**Truman Celebrates America Recycles Day, on the Mall;** see Page 2

7 p.m.-**Volleyball MIAA Postseason Tournament, Pershing Arena**

7 p.m.-**Kareem Black to Speak, BH Little Theater;** see Notes

7 p.m.-**Public Relations Panel, BH 303;** see Notes

7-9 p.m.-**Global Issues Colloquium, SUB Alumni Room;** see Notes

8 p.m.-**Musical Celebration in Honor of the Installation of Barbara Dixon, Baldwin Auditorium;** see Page 1

## 14 FRIDAY

3 p.m.-**Installation of Barbara Dixon as 14th President of Truman State University, Baldwin Auditorium;** see Page 1

7 p.m.-**Graduate Orchestral Recital, OP Performance Hall;** see Page 3

## 15 SATURDAY

10 a.m.-5 p.m.-**14th Annual Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference, SUB Alumni Room;** see Notes

1 p.m.-**Women's swimming vs. Nebraska, Natatorium**  
7-10 p.m.-**"Rockin' Out for Charity" Concert, SUB Down Under;** see Page 2

7:30 p.m.-**Men's basketball vs. Quincy (Ill.), Pershing Arena**

## 16 SUNDAY

noon-4 p.m.-**14th Annual Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference, SUB Alumni Room;** see Notes

## 17 MONDAY

5-8 p.m.-**Etiquette Dinner, SUB Spanish Room**

**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 [ksvododa@truman.edu](mailto:ksvododa@truman.edu) or by completing a **Truman Today** form available in the Public Relations Office, McClain Hall 102. The form may also be accessed online at <http://trumantoday.truman.edu/submissionform.pdf>. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, style and space.