about truman

truman state university’s mission is to provide missouri students access to an outstanding liberal arts educational experience in a public institution setting that is normally available only at costly, private sector institutions.

undergraduate education is at the core of this liberal arts mission, supplemented with a select group of graduate programs that grow naturally out of this undergraduate emphasis and are appropriate for a public university. truman strives to foster an outstanding learning community dedicated to the success of its students. with a total enrollment under 6,000 students and a student/faculty ratio of about 14:1, truman is large enough to provide a diverse experience but small enough to provide its students personal attention to their needs and interests.

as a nationally recognized university known for its strong student learning outcomes and its commitment to assessment and continuous improvement, truman is a place where students learn to excel. truman has the highest graduation rate of any public university in missouri; in addition, more than 40 percent of these graduates are entering graduate and professional school after graduation. the faculty and staff are here not only to provide academic challenges, but also to foster a supportive environment that enables students to meet these challenges while learning about themselves and the world around them.

truman believes that the best preparation for the future, regardless of a student’s ultimate career choice, is a strong liberal arts and sciences education. truman also expects each student to develop an in-depth knowledge and mastery of a discipline chosen from one of more than 40 programs in eight academic divisions. students are encouraged to expand their horizons and explore many different fields of thought as they work closely with the exceptional faculty and other academically talented students. since learning occurs outside the classroom as well as inside, truman students are encouraged to undertake research projects with faculty, to participate in study abroad programs, and to develop their leadership capacity through active participation in student organizations.

the university seeks well-prepared, motivated students with broad educational interests who desire the advantages of a residential college experience. our students come from virtually every county of missouri as well as more than 39 states and 49 countries. truman’s reputation is built on the ability of its faculty and staff to help students achieve academic excellence while developing their full potential for responsible citizenship in the 21st century.

truman is committed to the advancement of knowledge, to freedom of thought and inquiry, and to the personal, social and intellectual growth of each of its students. the university strives to maintain a recognized standard of excellence in all of its educational endeavors and a responsible stewardship of the resources provided by the people of missouri.

a board of governors appointed by the governor of missouri heads truman. seven are voting members from throughout the state. in addition, there are two out-of-state members and a student representative who do not vote.

current members include thomas r. jayne, president; michael schwend, vice president; sarah b. burkemper, secretary; matthew c. barnes; john w. briscoe; peter t. ewell, ph.d.; ruth mach, ed.d.; wilma maddox; randa rawlins; and emily dun, student representative.

what’s in a nickname

why was the nickname, bulldogs, selected for truman state university? o.c. bell in 1908 referred to his performers as bulldogs, but it wasn’t an official designation. so far as is known, this term wasn’t used again until the spring of 1915.

at the time, a committee of students, including the late president emeritus walter h. ryle, recommended the adoption of the “bulldog” as the official emblem because of the beast’s tenacity and ability to fight desperately to the end.

the spirit of the bulldog has been evident since the name was selected 88 years ago. it’s not unique though, as at least 16 ncaa schools have adopted the “bulldog”.

president

barbara dixon

barbara dixon became the 14th president of truman state university on july 1, 2003. dixon is the first female to serve as truman’s president since the university was founded 136 years ago.

before coming to truman, dixon served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the state university of new york at genesee, a public liberal arts university, from 1997-2003.

she previously spent 27 years at central michigan university where she was a faculty member, chair of the academic senate and associate dean and interim dean of the college of arts and sciences. dixon has both a b.m. and m.m. in piano from michigan state university and a d.m.a. in piano performance, literature and pedagogy from the university of colorado.

she is a member of several honor societies including alpha lambda delta, mortar board, pi kappa lambda and phi kappa phi. dixon also holds memberships in the national music teachers association and delta omicron, a professional music organization, and is an honorary member of phi eta sigma and golden key.

director of athletics

jerry wollmering

jerry w. wollmering began as director of athletics at truman in september of 1999.

wollmering served as associate athletics director for finance and administration at bowling green state university in ohio since january of 1998. he was also the assistant athletics director for financial affairs for two years at bgsu, prior to his becoming an associate ad.

wollmering earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and accounting from drake university in 1987, and a master’s degree in physical education and athletic administration from kent state university in 1993. he is also a certified public accountant with experience as an auditor.

before arriving at bowling green, wollmering was an assistant athletic director at southeast missouri state university, a division i program, for approximately 18 months. while working on his master’s degree, wollmering was a graduate assistant to the athletic director at kent.

a native of ft. madison, iowa, he was a varsity letterman in cross country and track at drake. wollmering and his wife, alicia, have three daughters, leah who is 7-years-old, erica who is 5-years-old and kate, who is one.
Bulldog football games are played at Stokes Stadium, named in honor of James S. Stokes, the Truman professor who helped design the stadium.

The stadium was constructed 71 years ago with the first game played the evening of Oct. 10, 1930. Chillicothe Business College shutout the ‘Dogs, 13-0.

Stokes Stadium was rebuilt in the summer of 1962 and now seats approximately 4,000 spectators. The concrete structure has fiberglass seats and a press box. Before the start of the 1991 season, the University installed a new ramp and seating to accommodate individuals with disabilities. At the same time, three area corporations donated a 26-foot wide by 17-foot tall scoreboard with a computerized message center.

During the summer of ’99, construction was completed underneath the stadium. New restrooms, a ticket booth and concession stands were built, and the surface was leveled.

Lockers rooms for home and visiting players are located on the west side of the field in the brick buildings known as the Bulldog Kennels. Stokes’ football field is surrounded by the state-of-the-art Gardner Track with an all-weather surface constructed in the summer of 1996. It was named in honor of former Truman player, coach and Athletics Director, Kenneth Gardner.

Before Stokes Stadium, games were played at Kirk Field which was located on the northwest corner of campus. Kirk Field was named in honor of the man responsible for the project, President John R. Kirk.

**Division of Human Potential and Performance**
B.A./B.S., B.S.N., M.A. (Communication Disorders)
Exercise Science (including Pre-Medicine, -Occupational Therapy, -Physical Therapy, Exercise Physiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation/Wellness, Athletic Training, and Leisure Management), Health (including Pre-Medicine, Community Health, Public Health, Health Administration, and Worksite Health), Nursing, Communication Disorders.
**Division of Language and Literature**
B.A./B.S., M.A. (English)-Dr. Heinz Woebel
Classics, Communication (Journalism, Communication Arts and Communication Sciences), English (including Pre-Law), French, German, Russian, Spanish.
**Division of Mathematics and Computer Science**
B.A./B.S. (Mathematics)-Dr. Lanny Morley
Computer Science, Mathematics.
**Division of Military Science**
Lt. Col. James W. Dirkske
Students in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) earn an officer’s commission in the U.S. Army in conjunction with an academic degree.
**Division of Science**
B.A./B.S., M.S. (Biology)-Dr. Scott Ellis
Agricultural Science, Biology (including Pre-Medicine, Medical Technology, -Physical Therapy, -Dental, -Veterinary), Chemistry (including Pre-Medical, -Pharmacy), Physics (including Pre-Engineering)
**Division of Social Science**
B.A./B.S.-Dr. Seymour Patterson
Economics, History (including Pre-law), Justice Systems, Philosophy and Religion, Political Science (including Pre-Law), Psychology, Sociology/Anthropology.