The woman behind the president looks forward to settling down in June

**Heather Webb**

Sue Magruder’s retirement will signal the end of an era for Truman. Magruder began her job here in 1961 and is likely to become one of the longest-serving University presidents in the state. She has spent the past 40 years working at the University, first as an assistant professor of science, then as an associate professor, and finally as a University president.

Magruder said she feels great about her decision to retire. She said, “I’ve enjoyed every phase of my career here. I’ve had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people.”

Magruder’s career at Truman began in 1961 when she was hired as an assistant professor of science. She quickly rose through the ranks and became an associate professor in 1970. In 1980, she was named the University’s first female dean, and in 1990, she was named the University’s first female president.

Magruder said she is looking forward to retirement. “I’ve been here in this spot as easily as I could,” she said. “I could.”

Magruder’s last day as president will be June 30, 2003. She said she is looking forward to spending more time with her family and friends. “I’m looking forward to seeing my children and grandchildren,” she said. “I’m looking forward to seeing my nieces and nephews.”

Magruder’s retirement will be celebrated on May 1, 2003, in the University’s rotunda. The celebration will include a cake and punch, and a plaque will be presented to her in recognition of her service.

Magruder said she is proud of the University’s progress during her tenure. “I’m proud of the way we’ve grown,” she said. “I’m proud of the way we’ve improved.”

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