

Check out the latest news about the Bulldogs spring sports  
See Page 11



# Truman State University INDEX

104 years of excellence

Thursday, April 4, 2013

The University's student-produced newspaper

<http://tmn.truman.edu/theindex>

## Business department competes

Business students participate in a regional entrepreneurship competition

BY NATASHA MCCALLISTER  
Staff Reporter

Truman State students have been invited to participate in #BOOM Bounce Pitch, hosted by Regional Economic Development Incorporation, for the first time. The #BOOM Bounce Pitch is a competition for entrepreneurs which gives them an opportunity to expand their ideas. This year is the first year entrepreneurial organizations of higher education in Missouri will be included in this event.

Debra Kerby, School of Business Dean, said Truman and a few other schools have been invited to participate and to help promote entrepreneurship in the mid-Missouri region.

Kerby said Truman hosted its own entrepreneur competition for a guaranteed spot in #BOOM Bounce Pitch competition. She said other teams that submit to Truman but do not win can still submit to the open competition in Columbia, Mo. She said anyone interested can participate in this competition. Participants do not have to attend Truman, Kerby said, and anyone in the Kirksville area can sign up. Kerby said those wanting to participate have to fill out an entry form and there can be individuals or teams.

Sean Siebert, Chairman of #BOOM Bounce Pitch competition, said this is the third year of the event and the first year when other colleges in Missouri have been invited to participate.

Kerby said students with entrepreneurial ideas can gain experience pitching their ideas to others and getting advice from those with experience. She said students can create a network by meeting with other students from other schools and they can collaborate to see if they can help each other.

Kerby said the competition helps bring attention to those who are looking for entrepreneur opportunities.

Siebert said this year they are inviting other colleges to participate because there are other talented people who have good ideas.

"It's not even about the competition if we can get all these students together and they can start collaborating," Siebert said.

Siebert said each contestant will be asked to pitch their idea for five minutes, followed by three minutes of asking and answering questions and another minute for the judges to score. He said the top three winners will receive money prizes, but even those who do not win get the opportunity to expand their network and to even start their business.

"There are no losers," Siebert said.

According to the #BOOM Bounce Pitch website, 12-time Emmy-award winning reporter Sarah Hill will make an appearance at the event.

This year's competition will take place April 12 at Cornell Hall of Trulaske College of Business at the University of Missouri-Columbia. For more information visit <http://www.comoboom.com>.

## Encouragement embodied



Philosophy and religion professor Patricia Burton partially retires after 26 years at Truman State

Submitted photo

Patricia Burton, philosophy and religion professor, sits at the reception in her honor held March 21 in the Student Union Building. A \$75,000 endowment was started to honor Burton as she prepares to partially retire starting during fall 2013.

### The Endowment

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS  
Staff Reporter

An endowment fund was started this year in the honor of one Truman State professor.

Patricia Burton, a philosophy and religion professor, will retire this year, and to honor her hard work and dedication to students during her time at Truman, the Advancement Office created the Dr. Patricia Burton Honorary Endowment, Planned Giving Officer Brad Chambers said.

The fund, which will benefit the philosophy and religion department, was started this summer to address a monetary need for extra student services within the department as well as to honor Burton, he said.

"We also recognized that Dr. Please see ENDOWMENT, Page 3

### All Eyes On: Patricia Burton

BY CONNOR STANGLER  
Staff Reporter

Philosophy and religion professor Patricia Burton likes to joke that her students think of her as their pushy stage mother. Dwarfed by the stacks of paper skyscrapers in her office but built of a resolve that makes her appear to tower over them, Burton has spent her time at Truman State pushing her students. But for 26 years, they've only been pushed toward one goal — realizing how good they are.

Starting during fall 2013, Burton will partially retire, reducing her official teaching responsibilities to a few sections of logic and ballet. But as adviser, logician, defender of the liberal arts and champion of students' abilities as researchers and autodidacts, Burton's duties are none the more diminished for the change, she said.

"That's what we're supposed to be doing here — giving students that one-on-one experience, in addition to the classes," Burton said. "My job is not just to show up to my classes, but it's to educate students, not to spoon feed them my ideas, but to show them what they're capable of and help them when they hit road blocks with

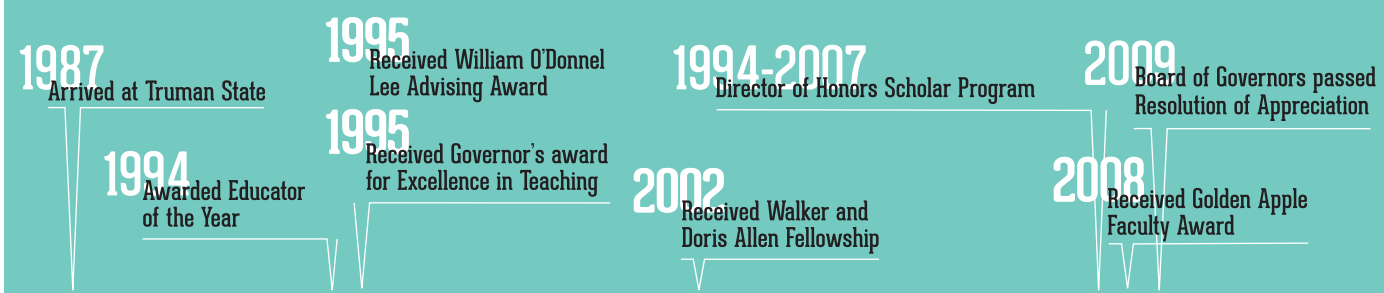
research, road blocks with languages."

Burton has taught philosophy, specializing in logic and the philosophy of dance, since 1987. She has won several teaching awards and was instrumental in attaining Truman's first Rhodes Scholarship, building the Honors Scholar Program and gaining a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, she said. But in her office and classroom, the focus is her students. Burton guides them in their research and encourages students to expand beyond the limits of the classroom. She meets weekly with a group of students pursuing diverse research topics so they can challenge each other.

"I facilitate bringing together more voices so they can see what exciting things other people are thinking about, rather than just, 'I'll read a textbook' or 'I'll only read the best published research,'" Burton said. "No, let's hear what your colleagues have to say."

Philosophy department chair Dereck Daschke has worked with Burton since he arrived at Truman during 2000. He said Burton puts student services first. Even students not in her classes come to her for advice and guidance. Please see BURTON, Page 3

### PATRICIA BURTON'S ACADEMIC CAREER AT TRUMAN STATE



## Faculty Senate supports domestic partner benefits

..... Domestic Partner Benefits .....	
Feb. 24	Resolution first discussed at Student Senate meeting
Feb. 28	Resolution presented to Faculty Senate
March 3	Student Senate read a domestic partnership resolution
March 17	Student Senate passed the resolution
March 28	Faculty Senate passed resolution
July 15	Forum will discuss resolution at Faculty Senate

### Faculty Senate calls for insurance benefits for domestic partners

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN  
Assistant News Editor

Faculty Senate unanimously passed a bill at the March 28 meeting urging the Board of Governors to expand health insurance benefits to domestic partners of Truman State faculty members.

This joint resolution first was adopted by unanimous consent by Student Senate on March 17. This is the first Faculty and Student Senate joint resolution since 2005.

University President Troy Paino was unable to attend the Faculty Senate meeting. Faculty Senate President John Bohac read a letter from Paino. In the letter, Paino discussed organizing a forum about the topic for the Board of Governors meeting June 15.

Bohac said the advantage of such a forum is that Faculty Senate can address the entire Board of Governors and Student Senate at once about the issue instead of addressing a committee or subcommittee.

Bohac said there are two main reasons why the bill passed. He said the first reason is this bill is in accordance with Truman State's nondiscrimination policy, which in-

cludes sexual orientation.

"There are many reasons why it's a good thing," Bohac said. "One is that there's a basic fairness issue."

Bohac said the second reason is having domestic partner benefits could draw more candidates to apply for jobs at Truman. Bohac said it is possible someone could choose to work at a different university that offers domestic partner benefits, so if Truman offers them, more candidates might apply for jobs. He said having domestic partner benefits will help Truman fill open positions with the best candidates possible.

Bohac said one concern is Please see BENEFITS, Page 3