

Personal writings are valuable in the future



Korbin Keller

The other day, I received a letter from a dead man — my father, Kraig Keller. It was addressed to my grandparents when he attended a little-known college called Northeast Missouri State. I hardly knew my father — he passed away when I was five years old — but my grandparents kept his letters for well over 20 years, before they graciously passed it along to me. What a wondrous surprise it was to experience the words on the page, typed by typewriter no less, and to peer into the soul of a father I had barely known. Although I might not remember him, I can still hear echoes of his words, see his reflection, and hold on to what he has left behind. It is a mystery for me to discover — his writings and recollections shed light on the man he was. They were clues that would have never existed had he simply decided penning letters were not worth his time.

It got me thinking. When I am gone, what physical evidence will I leave behind of who I am? We will all leave memories imprinted on lives we have touched, but as any historian will tell us, the concrete is more valuable than the abstract. What will it reveal to us — who we are? Many of us do give glimpses of our lives through our efforts so often shared by social media. But do we want the only physical testament to our existence to be an impersonal web page? Or should we make an effort to sit down and really put pen to paper and let the words flow from the fountainhead?

In an increasingly digital, frantic world, the importance of being able to sit down and pen a heartfelt and thoughtful note to loved ones cannot be overstated. Take the time to write meaningful things to people — write back and forth. A family member might be a call or text away, but in years to come having something to look back on in the form of a sincere letter will be worth it — for both you and your descendants. Even better, keep a journal or a diary to record your daily thoughts, activities and actions. Take time to write down your innermost thoughts. You can be your own historian, if only for yourself, and be able to look back and see how far you've made it. Not only this, but research conducted by the University of Rochester reveals that journaling and writing is an excellent way to relieve stress, manage anxiety and let emotions out in a safe and secure environment.

As our professors are known to say, "This is important, so write this down." Our lives are the most important thing we have to give to other people, so be sure to take just a moment to write it down. As I learned, you never know when a message from the past can pave the way to a brighter future.

Korbin Keller is a junior political science major from St. Louis, Mo.



What would you like the next University President to do differently from Paino?



Ben Barker
Senior

I don't think that the next president should necessarily strive to do anything differently than T-Pain. I think they can come up with their own ideas rather than trying to copy and recreate T-Pain.



Kelsey Breault
Senior

Actually I'd like him to be very similar to T-Pain. I think the next president will definitely need to focus on being involved in the community and accessible to students.



Lynde Blakely
Graduate student

I wouldn't like him to do anything differently. I thought T-Pain was perfect.



Karl Schneider
Staff

Nothing.



Sam Dougherty
Senior

I think that the next president should continue to keep engaging with the students and get to know them personally.



Bigtyme Price
Junior

They should better motivate students to help out in the local community through volunteering or beneficial projects.

2016 Presidential Search Process

June 17

Board of Governors announces Presidential Search Committee

June 28

Presidential Search Committee selected, including four members of the Board of Governors, four faculty members, four staff members, one student, and one representative from University Foundation

August 6

Presidential Search Committee meets for first time with consultants from Academic Search, decides to form Stakeholder Committee to interview candidates

August 22

Board of Governors changes consultants to the R. William Funk and Associates, consultants plan visit to campus on August 30-31

August 30-31

R. William Funk and Associates meets with the President's Administrative Council, Deans and Associate Provosts, faculty government, Staff Council, local community leaders, Foundation and Alumni Board members, faculty/staff, and students.

Mid-September

Recruitment Begins

January - March 2017

Three to five semifinalists interviewed by Stakeholder Committee and Board, announce new president

Source: Truman State University Board of Governors