

# TWO TRUMAN SCHOLARS



Cheryl Jackson and Scott Watson show a range of ability and breadth of interest that's typical of Mizzou's diverse student body. She's a young woman interested in art. He enjoys working with young people. They're exceptional in that they're both recipients of prestigious Harry S. Truman scholarships which provide up to \$5,000 a year for four years of study, two undergraduate and two graduate.

**J**ackson, 19, of Jefferson City came to Mizzou as an Alumni Scholar. The Cole County alumni group raised scholarship funds that were matched, 50-50, by the Alumni Association.

Jackson became a Truman Scholar this spring. The 3.4 GPA junior chose an analytical economics major, thinking it'd be good preparation for an East Coast law school, like Georgetown or Harvard.

"I always keep my goals high," says Jackson, whom Honors College Director Ted Tarkow describes as "bright, motivated and conscientious—the ideal Truman Scholar." An economics and law background should lead naturally into a public service career, as stipulated by the Truman foundation. That idea suits Jackson. Her parents, Betty, an elementary music teacher, and Charles, a Lincoln University professor, have a public service bent and "it's trickled down to the kids."

Another thing that's trickled down to Jackson, who's involved in Delta Sigma Theta service sorority and A & S Student Government, is the idea of free access to information. For her Truman application, Jackson wrote an essay on book censorship, highlighting the New York Island Trees case.

"These self-proclaimed censors are putting their moral standards above what is legally right," she says. While situations of books' being pulled from library shelves have been highly publicized, "so many cases are not reported. That's also frightening." Censorship endangers artistic creativity, says the student who enjoys drawing, watercolor and batik. "You can't put it down in Oxford words all the time."

For his essay, Watson, a Truman Scholar since 1981, chose practical alternatives to nuclear waste disposal. Besides an interest in nuclear power, weapons and waste, Watson second-guessed the selection committee to a certain extent. "They didn't want to hear about corn prices in Russia," says the 22-year-old from Gallatin in northwest Missouri.

That's not to sell his rural background short. He grew up on an 80-acre hobby farm where his dad, David, an ironworker, and mom, Velma, who works in an MFA exchange in Hamilton, Mo., raised horses. The 3.0 GPA senior plans to use his agricultural economics major and payment-in-kind farm policy knowledge working with farmers through the First National Bank of Gallatin this summer. After going to law school—he hopes at UMC—Watson plans to

practice law and maybe go into politics. When he settles down to home and family, though, "it won't be in a Crown Center condo."

Perhaps home sounds so good because Watson only spent 20 days there last year. As national vice president of the Future Farmers of America, he logged 250,000 miles polishing his leadership and public speaking skills. He gave as many as three speeches a day to high school and civic groups and traveled on goodwill tours to Japan, Korea and Canada. In 1979-80, he was state FFA president.

During his travels, Watson, president of Mystical Seven and member of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honorary and Beta Theta Pi fraternity, met a lot of young people. Sensing a lack of direction among the students, he tried to motivate them to do a little extra. "Why just exist?" he asks.

Not just any student would delay his college career for a year, says Dr. John Mikrut Jr., an economics assistant professor who had Watson in an arbitration class. Watson takes advantage of opportunities to become educated beyond the classroom, says his teacher. "He's a better person because of it and the University's a better place because of him."

Strong participation in the Truman scholarship program began in 1980 when Mizzou—along with Harvard, Dartmouth and Yale—had two winners. Peggy Israel, AB '82, of Ballwin, Mo., now attends law school at the University of Virginia and Sonja Step-toe, BJ, AB '82, is in law school at Duke University. Nationally, a total of 523 Truman Scholars have been selected since 1977 to memorialize the country's 33rd president, who felt money spent for education is a valuable investment in the future of the country.

No doubt about it. These young people would make Harry Truman proud. — *Karen Worley*