

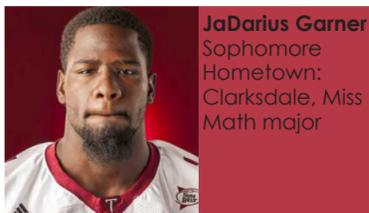
What's Inside:



Kimberle Johnson
Junior
Hometown: Montgomery, Ala.
Social Work major



Haijiao Sun
Recent Graduate
Hometown: Shenyang, China
Sports Management



JaDarius Garner
Sophomore
Hometown: Clarksdale, Miss
Math major



Kristen Fuller
Freshmen
Hometown: Luverne, Ala.
Social Work major

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Trojans in mourning

Karli Mauldin
Assistant News Editor

As the spring semester begins, the Trojan family is mourning the loss of four students who passed away over the break.

The incidents included two gun violence deaths and two car related deaths.

Two football players were involved, one was killed and another has been charged with manslaughter.

Haijiao Sun from Shenyang, China, a recent graduate of Troy died Dec. 21 due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident on Dec. 14 close to Gainesville, Fla.

Sun had graduated just eight days before the wreck.

Kimberle Johnson, 22, a junior social work major from Montgomery, was fatally shot Dec. 28 at the Centennial Bar and Grill in Montgomery.

According to AL.com and other sources, the Centennial Bar and Grill will not reopen due to its suspended liquor license and inadequate security team.

Two of the victims who survived the shooting have filed a lawsuit against the club owner and the security company. "Our thoughts are with Ms. Johnson's family and friends, as well as the other victims of this senseless tragedy," said Herb Reeves, Dean of Students. "Anytime there is a loss of life, it is tragic."

One other person was murdered at the scene of the crime and six others were hospitalized.

Kristen Fuller, 18, a freshman social work major from Luverne, was shot and killed on New Year's Day from a gunshot wound sustained at a party in Crenshaw County, at a residence on County Road 29.

Troy student Taylor Driggers from Brantley has been charged with manslaughter in connection with the incident, according to reports. It has been reported that Driggers was Fuller's shooter.

Driggers was signed with the Trojan football team but was not slated to join the team until summer 2014.

JaDarius Garner, 20, a sophomore math major from Clarksdale, Miss. and a member of the Trojan football team, was found dead on U.S. Highway 61 in Bolivar County, Miss. early in the morning



Joshua Thurston photo

Students come together to honor those Trojans lost during the holiday break at a vigil in front of Bibb Graves Hall yesterday. Four students passed away during the break, leaving a Trojan family to mourn.

on Jan. 2. Garner died due to injuries sustained from being struck by a vehicle on the highway. He was not found until a second car had run over him.

While the university held a vigil last night for the deceased, the Office of International Programs is also holding a memorial service for Sun today at 3:30 p.m. in Bibb Graves Hall.

Ex-athlete charged in killing

Tatiannah Clarke
Staff Writer

Dimitri Miles, 21, a Troy University football player, was arrested and charged with the murder of 26-year-old Troy resident Marquise McClendon at Trojan Crossing Apartments over the holiday break.

According to Bruce W. Mathews, chief investigator for Troy City Police, police were called to Trojan Crossing Apartments Sunday Dec. 15 at 7:55 a.m. after shots were reported.

As stated in the police report, McClendon was breaking into an apartment that belonged to two of Miles' teammates.

Upon hearing the sounds of the break-in, Miles then left his apartment and attempted to prevent the burglary from proceeding. Miles then fired multiple shots from a Glock 9mm, hitting McClendon in both his upper and lower extremities. McClendon was unarmed at the time of the shooting.

Miles did admit that he had purchased the firearm from an acquaintance in Georgia.

Miles called the Troy Police Department to report the shooting and was seen near the scene

See **Murder** Page 2



Hannah Crews photo

Ray Smith, professor of saxophone and jazz, conducts one of the two Spring concert bands in the newly opened John M. Long Hall, which was built to accommodate the entire band.

John M. Long Hall revamped, reopened

Grishma Rimal
Staff Writer

After a year and a half of construction and an expenditure of approximately \$9 million, the John Maloy Long Hall has now reopened. The building, designed to be the home for the music and dance departments, replaces the original band hall that was built in honor of former director of bands John M. Long in 1976.

The original structure was torn down in July 2012 to make room for the new 30,500 square foot structure that

is located between the dining hall and Smith Hall.

"The old building did not fit our needs. It was too outdated," said Mark Walker, director of bands for the School of Music. Walker explained that the new building comes as a vast improvement compared to the old one which was not big enough nor had enough storage area while the new hall comes with the amenities of a large band room, a band storage facility, a choir room, dance studios, soundproof practice rooms and administrative and faculty offices.

See **Long** page 2

IT dept. introduces new alert system for students

Zachary Winslett
Arts and Entertainment Editor

TrojanTXT, a text messaging alert system launched last semester, keeps students up-to-date on registration dates, financial aid deadlines, drop and add dates, and billing. The Information Technology Department and Student Services sponsors the program. Instructions can be found at <http://trojan.troy.edu/help/sms>, and the registration page can be found at <http://hermes.troy.edu/#txt>.

Greg Price, the chief technology officer in the IT Department, said that the program eliminates the need for students to review calendars, websites and applications, as TrojanTXT ensures that students receive "brief, direct notices" with pertinent information.

TrojanTXT is the not the lone text messaging service available to students. The other text messaging service is the Troy University SOS system, which, according to its website, "can swiftly notify university constituents of a number of unexpected events, including: emergency broadcasts, alerts, weather advisories, school closings, class cancellation and significant maintenance events."

Students can subscribe to the SOS service at sos.troy.edu/subscribe.html.

The two text messaging systems do not have overlapping information according to Price.

See **TXT** page 2

SGA proposes recreational facility

Fees charged to freshman, sophomores, juniors to assist in funding project

Chase Robinson
Copy Editor

A resolution to begin efforts to build a new recreational facility on campus was introduced and put on docket at Tuesday night's

Student Government Association meeting.

The resolution, sponsored by Faith Mote, chairwoman of the student welfare committee and a junior communications major from Pelham,

would establish a fee to be collected at the same time as tuition.

The fee could be put in place as soon as the fall semester of 2014, but it would not be formally put in place until a building

timeline is established.

The fee would apply to students classified as freshmen, sophomores or juniors when it is established.

Current juniors and seniors would be exempt

from the fee because they will graduate before the facility is completed.

SGA President Cody Farrill, a senior political

See **Resolution** page 2

THURSDAY 51°F 34°F high low	FRIDAY 53°F 28°F high low	SATURDAY 50°F 34°F high low	SUNDAY 58°F 36°F high low	MONDAY 64°F 48°F high low	TUESDAY 61°F 32°F high low	WEDNESDAY 49°F 30°F high low
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Troy University photo
Becky Lareau (second from the right) received Troy University's Vergil Parks McKinley Award on Wednesday during the University's annual faculty/staff holiday luncheon on the Troy Campus.

Murder

continued from page 1
 when police arrived. He was arrested when the police arrived.

"It appears McClendon was in the commission of burglary at the time," District Attorney Tom Anderson said. "The defendant confronted the deceased and fired multiple shots."

McClendon was transported to Troy Regional Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead.

According to city police, McClendon was a well-known burglar in the Troy area.

Troy University Dean of Students Herbert Reeves said Miles had been "immediately suspended" until the charges were settled.

John Hartwell, Troy University athletics director, said that Miles had been cut from the football team.

"First and foremost, anytime there is a loss of life it is a tragic event and our thoughts and prayers go out to the victim and



Dimitri Miles

his family," Hartwell said in a statement.

"Dimitri Miles was a walk-on student-athlete on our football team who was academically ineligible to compete in competition this past season but practiced as a member of the scout team."

Hartwell continued by saying that Miles' association with Troy University's football team and the Troy Athletic Department had been immediately terminated as a result of the shooting charges.

Miles was transported to the Pike Co. Jail upon his arrest and was held on a \$100,000 bail but has recently bonded out and is currently home in Lafayette, Ga., awaiting his trial.

According to Matthews, further details about the case are unavailable as the investigation is still pending.

Miles was unavailable to comment.

TXT

continued from page 1

"SOS and TrojanTXT are two separate systems," Price said. "SOS is for emergency purposes only."

Any mobile device that is able to send text messages is compatible with the systems, but per-message fees may apply to the messages sent to mobile devices. The IT

Department recommends that users consult their service provider and wireless plan before subscribing.

According to the IT Department, there are 2,402 participants registered for TrojanTXT and 12,500 outbound messages delivered since its launch this semester.

"The stats reveal that we have enrolled approximately 10 percent of the total enrollment in

eight weeks," Price said. "During that time, eleven messages were delivered to distinct populations, thereby allowing timely and specific content to students."

For more information or assistance with the TrojanTXT alert system, users can text TROYHELP to 69979. Current TrojanTXT users can unsubscribe from the system by texting OPTOUT to 69979.

Resolution

continued from page 1

science major from Panama City, Fla., pointed out that many members of the SGA would graduate before the facility can be completed. "We're working for the future of Troy," Farrill said.

The resolution states that the SGA would be serving students "with their finances in mind." The fee would be capped at \$125, which Farrill compared to the price of a biology textbook.

Farrill added that the fee will not be charged during summer semesters.

Farrill also said that current plans are for the facility to be built in Sartain Hall and completed in 2016, but these plans

are not finalized.

The resolution must still be voted on, and, if passed, it will go before the board of trustees.

It will have to go before the board before an official estimate on the cost and completion date can be given.

Farrill's appointments of Lee Tatum to chief justice and Hannah Louise Dungan to associate justice on the Supreme Court were approved.

The Students for Social Justice constitution was passed, and the Campus Carry constitution was tabled for one week.

It was also announced that elections for SGA vacancies will be held Jan. 29. For more information about elections, visit the student services office.

Long

continued from pg. 1

"For the first time we have all the rehearsal space – for the band, the choir and dance – under one roof," Walker said.

"It gives us a more appropriate learning environment," Chelsea Strength, a freshman music education major from Chelsea, said. "It's huge and well designed. Before this, whenever a band class met, it was in the old dining hall. It's nice to have our own facility," Strength said.

According to Walker, the decision to reconstruct the entire building instead of renovating it was based on cost. "A new facilitated building was also a necessity for us to maintain accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music," he said.

In an effort to preserve the legacy of the old Long Hall, its bricks are available for acquisition in return for donations, proceeds of which go to the School of Music.

Although the new structure is still getting finishing touches, with final furnishing and interior construction still going on, several rehearsals, conducting and music education classes have already begun with the students taking full advantage of the availability of more private practice areas.

"We finally have enough space for

percussions," said Matthew Bowling, a senior computer science major and member of Sound of the South from DeFuniak Springs, Fla.

Bowling added that having a rehearsal space of your own is much more productive compared to everyone practicing in one big hall, as they had to do for a year and half in Stewart Hall while the new Long Hall was under construction.

"It is a 200 percent improvement from the old space because of the windows, the double sprung floors, permanent marley floors, the close locker rooms, the ice machine, the sound proofing and privacy, the extra mirrors, the bars on the wall, and the possibility of holding small shows in it, none of which we had before," said Sabrina Stone, a senior psychology major and member of the Troy Dance Repertory Ensemble from Phoenix City.

"It does meet the needs of the new dance major, not only by giving us another much needed space, but also by providing a completely professional state of the art space."

Billy Gordie, a senior music education major from Columbia, said that the building is very high-tech and inviting and can work as a plus for recruitment of new students. "It shows that the university actually cares about the School of Music," he said.

"People are going to be knocked out when they see it," Walker said.

Crime Log

Monday, Jan. 6

Criminal Mischief Third Degree

A trunk, rear bumper and passenger side door of a Honda Accord Lx were damaged at 11:30 a.m. on campus.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Harassment

Incident occurred in Clements Hall at 1:39 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 9

Terrorist Threat

Incident occurred in the Adams Administration Building room 134 at 1:39 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 10

Domestic Dispute

Occurred on Troy University's campus at Trojan Village 400 at midnight.

Friday, Jan. 10

Criminal Mischief Third Degree

A driver's side mirror on a 2007 Toyota Camry was damaged outside of the BCM on Collegedale at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Theft of Property Third Degree

A bag of shrimp was stolen from the Trojan Dining Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Daybook

Thursday, Jan. 16

Veteran Student Sign-in

The Troy for Troops Center will hold a sign-in at a table in the food court area of the Trojan Center. Key times are between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. There are leadership opportunities available with the Student Veterans Association and SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society.

Thursday, Jan 16

Fraternity Walk Throughs

Walk throughs will begin after orientation at 5 p.m. and will end after each group has visited every fraternity. Fraternity Row

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Celebrating lives of fallen Trojans

Emily Jackson
Features Editor

Recent graduate Haijiao Sun planned to make the trip back to China after studying at Troy University for six years. He told friends that he was traveling back to China after his graduation.

"I asked him why he was going home instead of getting a job here (in the U.S.), and he said it was because he wanted to go home to take care of his father," Confucius Institute faculty member Sue Sun said.

Although Sun, his father, cousin and aunt will not make that trip home; those who knew him remember Sun as a "kindhearted" and "selfless" individual.

Sue Sun stood over a computer at her podium and played the slide show that the Confucius Institute would play for Sun's mother when she arrived from China to celebrate the life of her son.

In the slide show were dozens of photos taken during Sun's work with the Confucius Institute. Photos slid across the screen of Sun helping students, laughing, performing in a drama, playing basketball in Wright Hall and wielding a Chinese dragon float.

At the Confucius Institute, Sun took part in the Star Talk program that began in July of 2013 where he worked as a teaching assistant helping American's learn Chinese.

That's where he met Xian Ruo, a senior graduate student in Master Public Administration from Shenzhen, China.

Ruo described Sun as "quiet," "a good listener" and "kindhearted." She said



Haijiao Sun

that he enjoyed playing basketball while earning his degree in sports management.

"I think he was very selfless. In the program, we had many activities, and we had to move a lot of desks and many chairs. He helped a lot. He was like a real man."

Ruo and Sun acted in short dramas that for the program. They acted out a school scenario with teachers and bad students. She laughed as she recalled that each time Sun would always choose to be the student taking a nap during class.

Sue Sun spoke about Sun's smile. She said that this was what she thought about when recalling his memory.

She described a time when Sun was having his photo made for the Confucius Institute. In the first two frames he stood there in a blank stare until she urged him to smile. She did not expect him to smile, but when he did she said that it was a smile that made her feel "very warm."

Alyse Nelson
Staff Writer

Kristin Fuller was loved by many on campus as well as elsewhere.

"Kristin personally encouraged me as my little sister in Distinguished Young Women of Crenshaw County and entertained me and brought a smile to my face daily in our high school French class," said Kelsey Kiser, a sophomore nursing major and close friend of Kristin's for four years.

Kristin was known by most for her bubbly and outgoing personality. "Kristin was a fun-loving person and not shy at all. She always made people smile and wasn't afraid to tell her opinion to anyone," sophomore Justin Fuller said of his younger sister.

She was also known for the friendliness that she extended to everyone she met. "She would make friends with anyone," Justin said.

"She never met a stranger," Kiser said of her friend's tendency to befriend the majority of the people that she met.

In a display of the compassion that Kristin held for others, Justin Fuller shared his sister's future goals. "She was majoring in social work and the reason she chose that was David, the guy in the dining hall that has Down syndrome. She saw him one day and started talking to him. She would visit with him almost every day, and she came home and told

our momma she wanted to do social work to help kids with special needs."

"I know that she would have been overly successful in whatever she decided to pursue," Kiser said.

"She was truly a blessing and a light to everyone that knew her, and she never met a stranger," Kiser said. "It was definitely an honor to call Kristin Fuller my friend. Although the Trojan family will never be the same, the Kingdom of Heaven has certainly been enriched!"



Kristin Fuller

Emily Jackson
Features Editor

The late JaDarius Garner had dreams of combining his passions for football, math and the word of God as a coach and teacher in his former high school, if he didn't make it to the National Football League first.

His passing came to friends and family members as a "shock" and a "tragedy" during the week of Jan. 2, 2013.

In the wake of his death, his older brother, Fabian Di'Angelo Garner Jr. of Clarksville, Miss., called his brother a man of "passion" above all else.

Fabian said those passions started with the Bible and football.

"He could handle any football play or Bible verse you could throw at him," Fabian said "He felt that through God he was invincible."

During his time at Troy, Garner played for the Trojans and not without purpose.

"He felt like it was a great opportunity to make Troy (football) known and earn everything he owned, and I feel that is exactly what he did," Fabian said.

While playing two seasons for Troy, Gardener was called Sun Belt Conference defensive player of the week during the week of Sept. 9, according to USA Today.

Garner majored in math while at Troy in hopes of retuning to his hometown to become a math teacher.

"He was the only junior in my high school trigonometry class when I was a senior."

According to Fabian, their grandparents raised both him and JaDarius. Their grandfather was a pastor in Mississippi as Fabian is today.

Among other memorable things, Fabian mentioned Garner's love for clothing.

"He was crazy about his clothes," Fabian said. "When he would get ready to wash them he would fold them, count

them and then wash them. Then he would fold them and count them again," he said with a chuckle.

He said that he would always see his brother's face when he encountered a Ralph Lauren Polo because that was his "thing."

Fabian sends his thanks to the Coaching staff, the Trojan football, the professors, and student body along with his regards.

"He (Garner) was a wonderful person," Fabian said.

"I am here to tell you not to mourn his death but celebrate his life and be happy because he is with God. He as a person always wanted people happy so I know he would love to see you all smiling in this trying time."

Fabian tells readers to remember his brother's favorite scripture: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



JaDarius Garner

Emily Jackson
Features Editor

Kimberle Johnson's life brought joy and color to friends, family and to people she did not even know.

"She (Kimberle) never met a stranger," said Duerinica Harrington a senior social work major from Montgomery. "Kim was just someone you would want to be around because she was just 'Kim'." She



Kimberle Johnson

could light up a place."

Ashley Temple, a junior elementary education major from Montgomery, met Johnson in the 7th grade and was her roommate in Troy up until her death. Kim was a junior social work major from Montgomery.

"Wherever she went - we new we were going to have a good time because, 'Kim is here,'" Temple said.

Temple said that if she could say anything about who Kim was it would be that she was just "so silly," "always joking" and "just a good person over all."

Temple said that she loved helping people.

Professor Sheryl Matney taught Johnson in some of her social work

classes.

"The field of social work was a great fit for Kim," Matney said. "I know I loved to see her smile and enthusiasm for the field in class and will miss her as well as the contribution she would have made to the field of social work."

According to Harrington, Kim had plans to intern at the Veterans' Affairs Hospital in Montgomery in order to work with rehab patients.

"Put your troubles in a circle with other people's, you'll be glad to pick yours up and take it with you. It could be worse," Kim said in a tweet on Dec. 23.

Kimberle's mother, Barbara Johnson Green of Montgomery thanks Troy and called it an "honor" and "privilege" to raise Kimberle.

"She loved God, others, herself and understood the importance of forgiveness and being humble," Green said. "Her spirit is what keeps me going to today along with the love of a caring and compassionate God, who is my comforter."

Green also spoke of her daughter's commitment to the Lord, passion for social work and unconditional love for others. She also said that she is proud of Kimberle.

Temple and Harrington laughed together as they explained Kim's obsession with Meek Mill, a hip hop artist who was signed under T.I.'s recording label at one point in his career according to <http://www.sing365.com>. Temple said that despite his fame, Kim would tweet at him almost everyday.

"So many Troy students pulled together and kept tweeting him about Kim's death," Temple said.

In response to the tweets the music artist changed his Instagram profile picture to a photo of Johnson with the letters "R. I. P." scrawled across it in red.

"If Kim were here today she would say, 'See, I told you we go together. I told you he'll be my husband,'" Harrington said.

Green said that even despite the tragedy that she has faced, she is comforted knowing that she now has a guardian angel.



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Trojan family gathers to light memory of lost



Caleb Hicks photo

Staff Report



Joshua Thurston photo



Joshua Thurston photo

Students, faculty and family gathered on the quad on Wednesday, Jan. 15, to hold a candlelight vigil to say farewell to the four Troy students lost over Christmas break.

Speeches were given, and a poem was read before candles were lit to honor the students and their families.

Here are some of the inspirational words spoken during the vigil:

"We are not gathered here today to mourn the lives lost but to celebrate the lives lived." - Associate Provost Hal Fulmer

"Oh Lord, bring about a new sense of healing in our brokenness." - The prayer of Pastor Elijah Shafer.

"Death reminds us of how precious life is." - John McCall, Troy University history professor

"These students represent so many aspects of our school - the international department, athletics and just the average student." - SGA President Cody Farrill

"Today we are called to remember them but we are also called to let them go." - John McCall, Troy University history professor

"Not all lessons are learned in the classroom. This life lesson is one that you will remember forever." - Chancellor Jack Hawkins

Students win with language video

Taylor Foxx
Staff Writer

For some, learning a new language can be a tedious and arduous process, but according to a prize-winning video created by two Troy students, it can be a pathway to becoming a part of global community and exploring the world.

Weixang Lui, a junior English major from China, and Guanyu Zhang, a senior psychology major from China, created a video podcast during the Fall semester as a part of an extra credit assignment for Spanish 2201. This video was part of a statewide contest put on by the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers (AAFLT).

This video, entitled "Discover the Language-Troy University," had to be only a minute-long and capture the theme of AAFLT conference: "Discover Languages, Discover the World." Weixang and Guanyu's submission was selected by Johanna M. Alberich, assistant professor of Spanish, out of several others to represent Troy University in the statewide contest. The submissions were judged over the Christmas Break and Weixang and Guanyu received the news that their video had won in early January.

Their submission features several students standing next to the Troy University's global signpost in the main quad. Group by group, the students come up and introduce themselves in their native language. The video uses English subtitles to communicate the theme of how learning language brings people together and features 5 different languages, including: Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Nepali and English.

The topic of how language education leads to discover the world struck close to home in both Weixang and Guanya's

lives. As exchange students, they created the video specially to bring light to the purpose of language to bring unity in the midst of cultural diversity.

"Because we are the foreign students in Troy, we thought it would be better to get more foreigners together to show this topic," said Weixang, "We need to come together to speak together."

The video was also an opportunity to return back to some favorite past times.

"I always liked to make school plays in and middle and high school," said Guanyu, "During the New Year's celebration, I have directed plays to entertain my friends. If I have time, I might make a video again. It was really fun."

Interestingly enough, the video does not incorporate any Spanish even though the video was created as a part of an extra-credit assignment in a Spanish class.

"Weixang and Zhang," said Alberich, "are international students submitting a video for a Spanish class that uses no Spanish in it. They used all different types of languages in and they pointed out just how learning languages can open doors to a new world."

Weixang and Zhang will receive a cash prize and certificate for their video. In February, the award for best video will be presented at the Foreign Language Teacher Convention and be collected by Alberich.

The video is available on YouTube for viewing under the title "Discover the Language- Troy University." The AAFLT Video Podcast Contest is held annually during the Fall semester and is a part of a united effort to promote and advocate for the learning of foreign languages in the state of Alabama.



Weixang Luo



Guanyu Zhang

Caitlin Collins photos

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	9			2				8
			6	1				
	6		8				4	
7				4		6		

SGA president discusses rec center fees, future town hall meetings

Troy Students, As we begin this semester with heavy hearts, I want to encourage our entire Trojan Family to come together and remember the lives of four fellow Trojans as they have lost their lives over the holiday break.

As the Alma Mater states, "upon the mighty walls of Troy we meet our lifelong friends to grow in knowledge, truth and strength our journey never ends."

"Lifelong" means more than just one person's life. It means all of the lives that we share even if some of us live longer than others.

Their journey is always alive in your memory and your daily life; therefore their journey has not ended and it is up to all of us to keep their journey moving forward; and their flame lit -- within our own hearts, minds, and memories.

Throughout the winter break I received many questions regarding the future of my proposed recreational center plan during my Presidential campaign.

The SGA is working with the division of Student Services and Administration to bring new life to Sartain Hall and for the overall campus culture at Troy.

We are working to get a concrete answer on the time line of the project throughout this Spring semester.

What I can say is that we as the SGA are working for you and need your input on what other ideas you have to enhance student life and welfare at the University, without putting a large expense on the student.

Our proposed Student Recreation Center fee, priced at \$125.00 per semester is less the average cost of a general studies

textbook. We as the SGA have worked hard at coming up with a fee that

1.) Only students that will be students at the time of the opening of the project will pay for and

2.) That it is affordable locally and when compared to other campuses across the US.

This fee acts in a way to ensure your voices are heard and that a building is built that we as the students feel the need for, without putting a large strain on your wallet.

Throughout this semester we will be having listening sessions where you as students can give leaders

ideas for what you would like to see on campus in regards to recreation.

However, be aware we are in the early planning stages and this project will take time to organize and implement.

We will announce a Spring Town Hall date in next week's Tropolitan, in which provides you the opportunity to express your concerns on campus in a formal setting, face to face.

With our Trojan Athletics, we ask each of you to continue to support.

Our Trojan Affinity Program, TAP, will begin to announce leaders in the coming weeks- so go out and support your spring athletic teams as there is still time to win!

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve you the student!

Go Trojans!
Cody Farrill

Through loss and adversity, we continue to be Trojans one and all

Faith Karwacki
Staff Writer

The Trojans have faced the tragic loss of four members of the student body over the recent holiday break.

It is without a doubt that these losses have deeply impacted our campus.

We as young students often overlook the possibility that our lives could be cut short either

by our own carelessness or by the hands of another.

We're young and at a point in our lives where many of us don't yet have the worries post-graduate adulthood is plagued with.

With that in mind, I encourage my fellow Trojans to open your arms to your fellow classmates and staff.

Be aware that many lives are seriously affected by these losses

and will continue to be so long after the public has forgotten.

We are a family of students who should want nothing less than the safety and emotional well-being of our own.

Use the buddy system as often as necessary.

Tell a friend if you believe they are heading into a potentially dangerous or self-destructive situation.

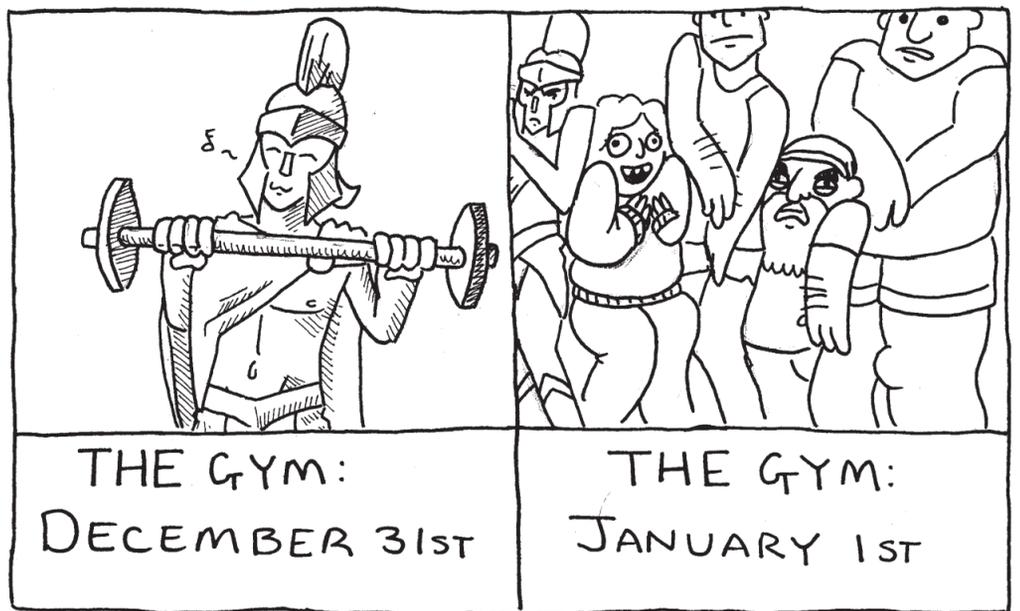
Let your peers know

how much you care about them.

Most of all, I encourage you to offer your time to those in mourning or otherwise affected by these tragedies.

Kind words and deeds speak loudly for the souls coping with the anguish of the loss of loved ones.

When all is said and done, we are Trojans, one and all.



New Year's resolutions should remain realistic and challenge the individual

Kelsey Vickers
Perspectives Editor

Ah, January – a time of new beginnings, a new semester, and if you're like everyone else in the world, New Year's resolutions.

You can ask nearly anyone on campus and I'm sure they'll share with you an extensive list of things they'd like to change about themselves this semester.

New attitude, new body, lifestyle changes -- These are just a couple of the resolutions I hear the most often.

While I think it's great that so many people want to better themselves, I have a hard time taking them seriously.

Roughly 8% of people in the United States actually end up keeping and achieving their New Year's resolution. That's a pretty small percentage compared to how many people make resolutions.

I think one of the main problems with people not keeping their resolutions is that they're simply expecting way too much out of themselves.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with holding yourself to a

higher standard, but are you sure your resolutions aren't a little far-fetched?

Let's be honest – you're probably not going to lose 30 or more pounds before spring break. You might not even lose that much all semester.

And you're certainly not going to be dedicated to going to the gym at 7 a.m. every day for the next four months, much less the next year of your life.

It's also not very likely that you're going to be able to altogether stop eating pizza and drinking beer on the weekends.

All I'm saying is,

perhaps making a few small changes in your life will be more beneficial in the long run than trying to change everything all at once.

It's a lot more likely that you'll disappoint yourself if you set some ridiculous standard for how you think you should live your life.

Also, to those of you who remain resolution-less, don't let those who are trying to change everything about their lives pressure you into making changes. Odds are, you're probably just as cool – or weird – as you were last year.

The Trop is looking for new writers!

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As Troy University's official student newspaper, the Tropolitan strives to serve student interests. The Perspectives page is an outlet for Tropolitan editors to question university policies that do not benefit Troy's students, praise those that do and call attention to national and state issues that relate to students.

Editorials stand as the official, corporate opinion of the Tropolitan. Our opinions are not influenced by campus organiza-

tions or societies, university administration or political parties. The first copy of the Tropolitan is free to any student or employee of Troy University. Each additional copy costs \$1.

Guest Columns

The Tropolitan encourages students, faculty and staff at Troy University to express opinions in a guest column of 500-700 words. Dissenting opinions are

welcomed, but not all expressions are the sole opinion of their author and do not reflect the beliefs of the Tropolitan.

Letters to the Editor

The Tropolitan welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff and non-Troy affiliated persons. Dissenting opinions and corrections are welcomed.

The Tropolitan does not exclusively print letters favorable to the newspaper.

Letters to the editor must be signed by the author, and a phone number must be included.

All submissions must be word-processed and emailed to the Tropolitan by 5 p.m. on Monday. All submissions may not be published.

Submissions bashing groups or individuals on the basis of race, gender, age, ethnic group, orientation or religious belief will not be printed.

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Winterfest is coming

Nikki DeRidder
Staff Writer

The Troy University Larping Guild has changed from last semester. The system and rule book they use has been overhauled and, according to the guild leader and co-founder Abby Smith, so has its activity.

“Troy University is going to see a lot of us this semester,” said Smith, a junior elementary education major from Panama City Beach, Fla.

Winterfest is just the first example of that.

“This event is basically going to be a tournament of sorts,” Smith said. “It is going to include many different games anyone can participate in.”

The particular events include King of the Quad, a Scavenger Hunt for



Ben Brotzman (left) and Brandon Leard (right), members of the Larping Guild, spar in full costume. In the wake of significant changes to their system, the Larping Guild is hosting Winterfest Jan. 22.

Rebecca Armstrong photo

the Holy Grail, an event similar to a three-legged race in which the partners are tied by the wrist and fight another group using the shields and

foam swords approved by the guild, a bear-pit where one-on-one players compete to stay in the ring while fighting their opponent and a riddle

competition. The main event held is a tournament style sword fight.

Winterfest is on Jan. 22 with an official start time of 2 p.m. on the quad

behind Bibb Graves Hall. It will run until 9 p.m. that evening. The Larping Guild will provide spare weapons for anyone who wants to participate and

costumes are encouraged.

There will also be a Pie in the Face fundraiser where you can come pie the leaders and members of the guild and potentially Richard Nokes, advisor of the Larping Guild, for \$2 or \$5 for three.

The Troy University Larping Guild’s website – <http://troyuniversity-larping.wix.com/guild> – contains the guild’s rule book, contact information and information on the role-playing factions.

The guild also has a Facebook group, which can be found by searching “Troy University LARPing Guild.”

The Facebook group is closed, but members added can communicate with the guild’s members and view photos of their outings.

Writer’s top five anime this season

Kianna Collins
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

The winter season of anime is here, and here are the five series that should be watched.

Space Dandy is highly anticipated because it’s by the famous director Shinichiro Watanabe, who worked on “Samurai Champloo,” “Cowboy Bebop,” and “Kids on the Slope,” and it’s being aired in the U.S. dubbed in English.

The premiere of Space Dandy aired in the U.S. before it aired in Japan, which makes it the first anime to have premiered in English before the Japanese dub.

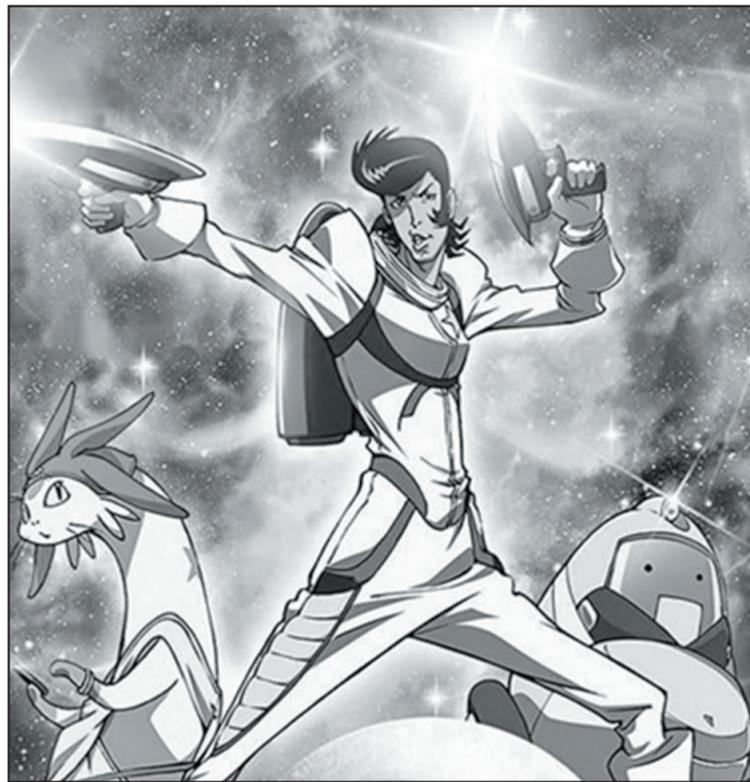
It’s following the crew of the “Aloha Oe,” that consists of Dandy, a human, QT, a robot and Meow, a cat-like alien called Betelgeusian, who travel around the universe to catalog new species of aliens. This is the primary objective of Aloha Oe, but the crew doesn’t do their job very well.

It airs on Toonami at 11 p.m. every Saturday, and new episodes are on Crunchyroll every Sunday.

“Tonari no Seki-kun” or “Master of Killing Time” is a short series based off a manga of the same name. The episodes are 6-8 minutes long, and that is including the opening and ending sequences.

There are two main characters featured, Yokoi and Seki, who sit next to each other in class. Seki finds class boring, so he starts elaborate projects to entertain himself—things that would get him into trouble.

Yokoi tries to stop him, since he distracts her from class, but by the time she gets the teacher’s attention, he’s somehow cleared his desk of his project and Yokoi gets in trouble for disrupting



tvqc.com photo

The titular character of “Space Dandy,” Dandy, brandishes two laser guns besides his space-faring partners Meow (right) and QT (left).

the class.

This series has a new episode every Sunday that can be viewed on Crunchyroll.

“Noragami,” or literally, “Stray God,” is yet another occult series to come out of Japan. It shouldn’t be discredited because of the genre, because it is a promising series.

to hit him. A girl named Hiyori sees him and tries to save him, and she’s successful, but not without losing her own life.

Yato saves Hiyori by putting her soul back into her body, but not without a cost. Every once in a while her soul leaves her body behind, and she doesn’t realize it until she sees her tail that is the connection to her body.

Nothing more can be said about the series without spoilers, but even though it uses and overused genre, it’s got a lot of potential.

This airs on Funimation’s website on Sundays but not on Crunchyroll.

“Hoozuki no Reitetsu,” or “Cool-headed Hoozuki,” is a simple slice-of-life series that’s based in hell. Hoozuki, the main character, is the main problem solver in hell, and he has many hobbies like raising goldfish plants.

The art style is gorgeous, and the plot is as simple as a slice-of-life anime can get.

This series comes on Crunchyroll every Friday.

“Hamatora” is based around a private investigation firm, whose members all have powers called “Minimum.” These powers are activated by fulfilling physical conditions, like putting on headphones, or blowing a bubble.

There hasn’t been anything provided in the plot long-term, but so far, all of the separate cases that the firm takes end up intertwining, or another outside force affects the case prompting the characters to figure out more than what they were paid for.

Each of these series has its own quirks and impressive art styles that merit at least a try.

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NO NUTS NO GLORY
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:25

FROZEN 2D
1:05, 4:05, 7:05

THE LEGEND HERCULES
real D 3D
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45

LONE SURVIVOR
12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 9:40

Softball strengthens offense with new players

Megan Phillips
Staff Writer

While spring sports like softball have been out of the minds of spectators since last year, the work never ends for the ladies of the Troy softball team, as they have been hard at work throughout the fall preparing for the upcoming 2014 season.

"We have been practicing all fall and have played in a few scrimmage games," assistant coach Beth Wade said. "We have a lot of new kids coming in, and a lot of them will be working their way into the lineup, so it is important that we work on getting them some experience here at this level."

The hard work and dedication of these Trojan ladies is made even clearer as they work around the construction of their new home field, staying in shape and on top of their game and preparing for their debut while practicing elsewhere.

"We have been working hard, indoors and out," Wade said. "We have relocated to Troy Sportsplex, and they have been really good to us. They have allowed us to use their facilities when we need to, and we really would not have been able to do this without their help."

Through these practices, the Trojan girls have been able to keep up their game and provide what they hope to be a solid team, which will provide for a great 2014 season.

"We work on every aspect of the offensive game," Wade said. "We have quick kids, and they will make plenty of slappers, but we also have some homerun power. Then, we have kids in the middle that will provide us with some gap hitting, so all in all we are pretty varied."

And that's not the only place this offense is varied, as the lady Trojans are looking at a vast array of experience and classifications as we see true freshmen working their way into their collegiate debut as well as transfer students who are coming to Troy with some experience under their belts. The team looks to see returning stars back from injuries hoping to show up and show out.

This mix of experience and stability with novices hopes to produce a new Trojan offense that will hit this season out of the park.

"We would love to have students come out and support us in our new house for our season opener where we will hopefully beat up on Auburn," Wade said.

The lady Trojans will begin their season at home on their new field on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. against the Auburn Tigers.



Jennifer Carlisle photo

Freshman Abbie Ellison practices her swing at the Troy Sportsplex on Tuesday, Jan. 14, in preparation for the upcoming softball season

Women's basketball continues losing streak

Kateryna Kunitsyna
Staff Writer

The Trojan women's basketball team fell, 69-52, to University of Arkansas at Little Rock at Jack Stephens Center in Little Rock, Ark. on Saturday, Jan. 4.

Senior guard Joanna Harden led Troy with 26 points. Harden, who set Troy's and the Sun Belt Conference's single-game records with 52 points in November, is currently the NCAA's third-leading scorer.

"My achievement is pushing me to work harder every day," Harden said. "It motivates me to break my record again."

However, the ball wasn't bouncing Troy's way at the beginning (4-11, 0-4), as UALR was leading 16-4 at the second media timeout.

"We have big problem we have this season," said head coach Chanda Rigby. "The first four minutes of the game, we seemed to get far behind."

According to Rigby, Troy improved by slowing UALR but still wasn't able to score well.

"UALR is great in defense," Harden said. "And we started to score too late."

Troy struggled to catch UALR, cutting the lead in the second half to 32-23, but could not close the gap. UALR built a 17-point lead, and then extended it to 20 points.

"We still have 16 games this season

to gain our winning ways back," Rigby said. "Each one of us looks forward to contribute for the future. But we feel a lot of urgency to get it turned around right now, before it's too late."

Coaches and athletic department staff believe in the team's ability to succeed in the whole season.

"The ladies have hit a dry spell lately," said Troy University's Director of Compliance Kit Alewine. "Their energy on the court and ability to score points quickly can easily change their momentum into winning Trojan basketball."

Rigby said there is no doubt the team needs fan support, especially in such times.

"We played a lot of games away, with almost no fans," Rigby said. "We hope and trust that this week we will have fans behind us. It really does make a difference."

The upcoming games will be held at Trojan Arena on Thursday, Jan. 16 against University of Louisiana at Monroe and Saturday, Jan. 18 against Louisiana-Lafayette, both at 5:15 p.m. The admission is free for students with Troy University student's ID.

"When people cheer for you, when somebody 'has your back,' you feel more focused," Harden said. "We need more support and energy. This message I have for you, Trojans: Come and cheer for us."



Joshua Thurston photo

Senior Joanna Harden has been named one of the watch list candidates for 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award given to the nation's top point guard.



Kateryna Kunitsyna photo

Senior guard Joanna Harden scored the most, with 26 points, for the lady Trojans, but it was not enough for Troy to pull out a win against UALR while on the road. The women's basketball team has lost seven games straight so far. The team plays ULM tonight at 5:15 p.m. in the Trojan Arena.

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Garner gone but not forgotten

Jill Odom
Sports Editor

Only a few hours into the second day of the new year, Troy University lost JaDarius Garner, student and football player.

According to The Dothan Eagle, Garner was found about 42 miles south of his hometown, Clarksdale, Miss. after being struck by two cars. The Mississippi Highway Patrol is still investigating his death.

"This is a terrible tragedy, and our thoughts and prayers go out to JaDarius' family in this time of grief," Troy head football coach Larry Blakeney said. "JaDarius was a well-respected member of our football team and his loss will be felt by all of us."

Garner transferred from Jones County Community College in Mississippi. The 20-year-old sophomore played defensive end during the 2013 season and was named the Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Week on Sept. 9, 2013.

During the Savannah State game on Sept. 7, 2013, Garner had two sacks for a loss of 20 yards and three tackles for a loss of 22 yards. He had a total of six tackles, five of which were solo tackles.

"On the field he is probably one of the only people I know who's ever gone 110 percent every rep," sophomore defensive end Tyler Roberts said. Garner played back up for Tyler Roberts during the



April Irvin photo

Sophomore defensive end JaDarius Garner sets up for a play against South Alabama on Oct. 5, 2013. He was the Sun Belt Conference Defensive player of the Week in Sept. 9, 2013. Garner passed away on Jan. 2, 2014, in Mississippi. His cause of death has yet to be announced.

2013 season.

"He had a motor and he never stopped, whether he came on the field or came off," junior linebacker Mark Wilson said. "Same in the weight room, he was one of the first guys there and one of the last to leave."

JaDarius was a joyful person who was known as the voice of the locker room.

"JaDarius was a guy that everyone loved to be around," Wilson said. "He was a jokester. He was a man of many talents. He was always singing, rapping, making all types of noises, he did it all."

One of Wilson's fondest memories with Garner was the summer before last when Wilson, Garner and a fellow roommate made a rap video while just hanging out.

Garner was commonly known for his smile despite circumstances and made a point to challenge his teammate Roberts during practice.

"Every time you saw him he was smiling, if he was having a bad day he was smiling, a good day he was smiling," Roberts said. "He was always singing too, every time I walked into the meeting room he was singing something."

When Garner wasn't playing football he was constantly visiting the library and both Roberts and Wilson agreed that Garner valued his education. He was a math major and once said that he wanted to become a teacher back home to help kids get out of bad areas one math problem at a time.

Troy men's basketball triumphs on the road

Jill Odom
Sports Editor

The Trojan men's basketball team was victorious on the road against University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 75-62, on Saturday, Jan. 4.

Troy (7-9, 2-2) was able to use accuracy on the charity stripe and superior rebounding to their advantage and racked up the points and left UALR unable to recover.

"That was a terrific road win," head coach Phil Cunningham said. "It's really interesting when you look at the stats, we shot 37 percent from the field and we won by 13. That doesn't happen a lot. We knew this going in, that our bench had to step up, and they did."

The Trojans made 25 of 33 free throws while UALR

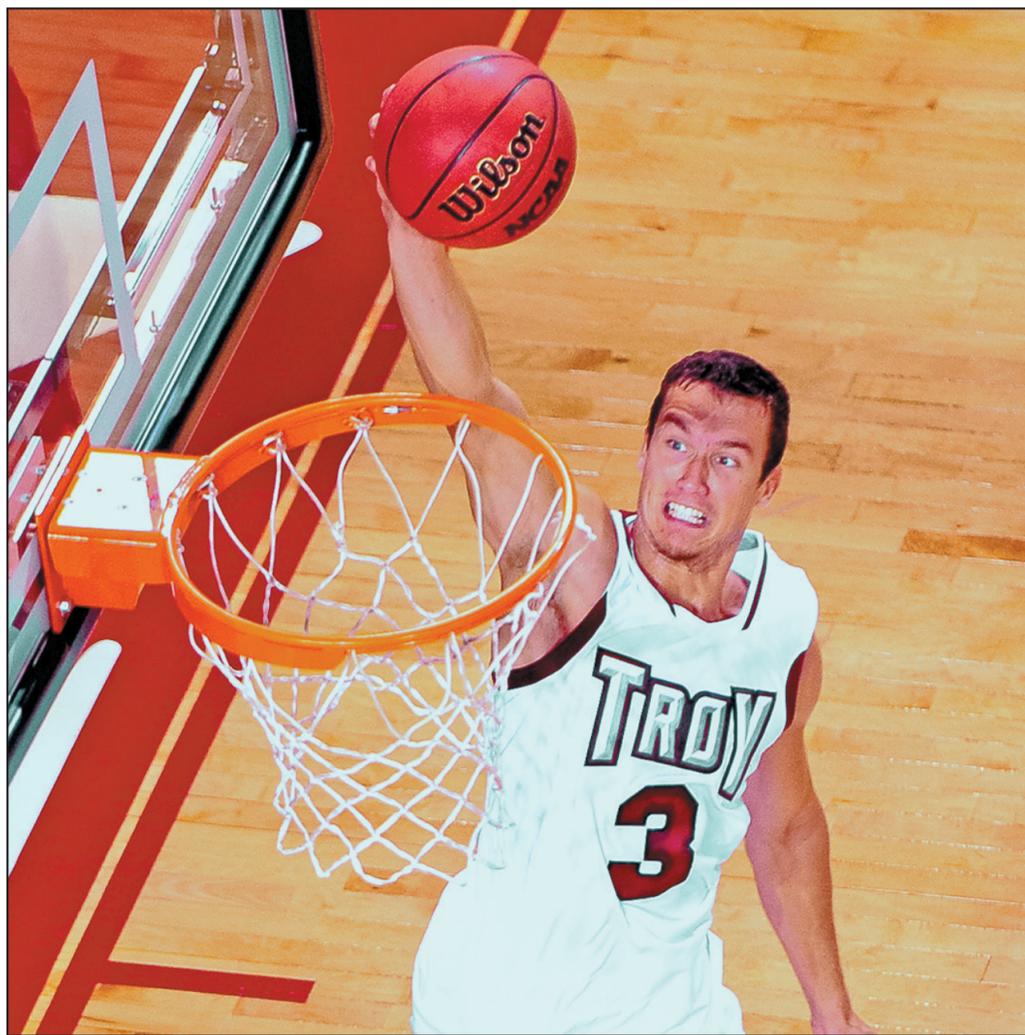
only scored eight out of a possible 13 points.

Senior guard Jeff Mullahey and senior forward Tevin Calhoun tied, scoring the most points for the Trojans with 17 points apiece.

Majority of UALR's points were scored in the paint but it was not enough to keep control as the lead changed nine times during the game. They also struggled with 3-pointers only making four out of 23 attempts.

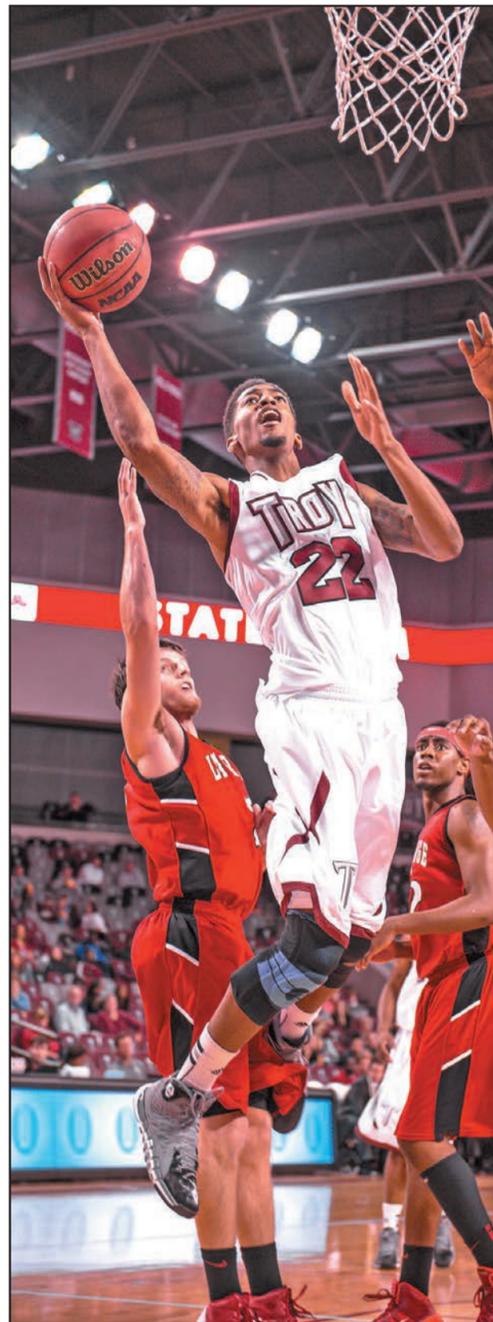
Troy's men took a lead of 13 points in the second half to finish out the game in Little Rock.

The men's basketball team will be playing tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Trojan Arena against University of Louisiana at Monroe and on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. against Louisiana-Lafayette at Troy as well.



Joshua Thurston photo

Senior guard Jeff Mullahey added 17 points to Troy's final score of 75-62 against UALR on the road.



Chris Davis photo

Senior forward Tevin Calhoun contributed 17 points for the Trojans on Saturday, Jan. 4. He scored nine out of his 10 attempted free throws and scored two 3-pointers along with three field goals.

Men's Home Basketball

- 1/16 vs ULM 7:30 p.m.
- 1/18 vs Louisiana-Lafayette 7:30 p.m.
- 2/1 vs Arkansas State 7:30 p.m.
- 2/6 vs South Alabama 7:30 p.m.
- 2/15 vs Georgia State 7:30 p.m.
- 2/27 vs UALR 7:00 p.m.
- 3/6 vs UT-Arlington 7:00 p.m.
- 3/8 vs Texas State 7:30 p.m.

Women's Home Basketball

- 1/16 vs ULM 5:15 p.m.
- 1/18 vs Louisiana-Lafayette 5:15 p.m.
- 2/1 vs Arkansas State 5:15 p.m.
- 2/6 vs South Alabama 5:15 p.m.
- 2/15 vs Georgia State 5:15 p.m.
- 2/26 vs UALR 7:00 p.m.
- 3/5 vs UT-Arlington 7:00 p.m.
- 3/8 vs Texas State 5:15 p.m.