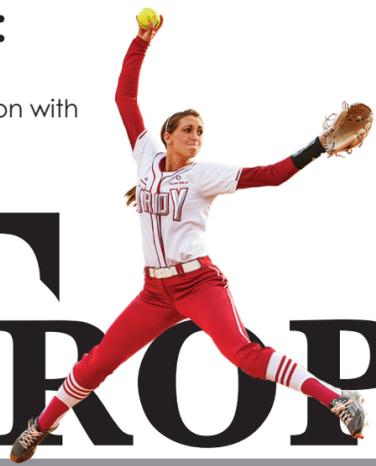


What's Inside:

Softball starts season with new head coach. **Sports, pg. 8**

Students read African-American literature in honor of Black History Month.



TROPOLITAN

Vol. 88, Issue 19

www.TropNews.com

February 5, 2015

WSFA anchor speaks at event Transgender student tells about support and struggles



April Irvin photo

WSFA anchorwoman Tonya Terry is pinned by Quinta Goines, a junior multimedia journalism major from Needham and president of M.I.S.S. Elite, as an honorary member of the M.I.S.S. Elite Society. The group, which was created to motivate female students positively, held its pinning ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 29. Terry was the speaker for the event. In her speech, she told members of M.I.S.S. Elite that they should strive to achieve their dreams.

Tonya Terry named honorary member of M.I.S.S. Elite

Lilly Casolaro
Staff Writer

A group of young women were recognized on Thursday for their participation with the M.I.S.S. Elite Society.

The society, whose purpose is to motivate and create sophisticated female students, held its pinning ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 29.

Family, friends, faculty and staff joined in the Trojan Center Ballrooms to support the women of this organization.

JoAnna Simon, a sophomore athletic training major from Tuscaloosa and treasurer for the M.I.S.S.

Elite Society, said that she has benefited from being in the society and that it has afforded her many opportunities.

"This is my first year at Troy and, as treasurer for M.I.S.S. Elite, I have benefited from this illustrious society by learning how to become a better leader from the position that I hold," Simon said.

"My duties include coming up with fundraising ideas so that we can pay for events like the pinning ceremony, and I have enjoyed every minute of becoming friends with so many of our members."

Members of the society were recognized for their achievements

in the organization and heard from key speakers such as Tonya Terry of WSFA News and Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. They also received a pin to commemorate the occasion.

Terry, a graduate of Troy University, spoke to the organization about how she accomplished her dreams.

"After taking a look at myself, I picked myself up, came to Troy and I did what I needed to do," Terry said. "I wanted to be on television."

Terry encouraged the women to believe in themselves.

"I believed that I could do it (become a news anchor) and knew

See **Elite**, page 2

Alyse Nelson
Features Editor

For transgender students, every day involves a struggle of some sort.

From using a public restroom to outright ridicule, Alex Millard, a senior English major from Enterprise, has endured a lot since his coming out a little over two years ago.

"When I was growing up, I didn't have concepts of gender," said Millard, "so that at which I started questioning was when I was 12 or 13."

Millard recalls going into an online chatroom around that time, and he realized that it was "cool" when everyone assumed he was a male.

"I told them my name was Alexander because I'd always liked that name," he said.

"From there, I kind of developed into learning more and learning that transgender was a thing," Millard said. "I was relieved that it existed, but at that point I didn't want to be transgender. I didn't want to be weird. I was always a weird kid."

"So I stayed in the closet for a really long time — through middle and high school."

Millard said that at the time his only outlet was cosplay, in which he would dress up as only male characters.

"When I was in the costume, it was just awesome — it was a huge relief," he said. "In it I would have a big ego, but out of costume in my real life I was really shy. I didn't speak to anyone unless I needed to."

During this time, Millard also had a boyfriend.

"We dated for four years and he broke up with me when I was 20," he said. "Before that I had resigned myself to that: that I'd marry him, pop out a few kids and be miserable for the rest of my life."

"And then he broke up with me and I was like, 'this is the best thing ever.'"

"For me, at least, and other trans people I've known, it's not a choice," Millard said. "It's a choice to come out, and it's a choice to go through transition. But it's not a cry for attention. It's something that eats you alive every single day and controls every aspect of your life until you do something about it."

Millard then came out on Jan. 7, 2013. With that date close to a friend's birthday, they have celebrated every year with a party since.

Most of it is not fun, though, he says.

"They've been all over the board," he said of people's reactions to the news. "Some people think it's weird and refuse to refer to me as anything other than my given See **Transgender**, page 2

Fundraising for a cure Donate Blood

Josh Richards
Staff Writer

Troy University's Relay for Life is gearing up for this year's event to raise money for cancer research.

The nonprofit organization will be hosting a bar night at the Front Porch on Feb. 17.

"We're going to try to have door prizes and contests," said Cassie Gibbs, a senior English major from Sweet Water and chair of Relay for Life. "Mostly we want to make sure everyone has fun and comes out to support the Relay for Life committee."

The bar night, a Mardi Gras-themed party, will include an event called "Save Your Hair! And Fight Cancer." Campus organizations can nominate a male to represent them and raise money to prevent them from having their heads shaved. Those nominees who raise the least amount of money will have their heads shaved. Anyone who raises no money will get a reverse Mohawk.

Nominations for the hair-shaving event are due Monday, Feb. 9. To nominate someone, contact Amber Voss at avoss100851@troy.edu.

This event will be held at the Front Porch, and DJ Goliath will be the night's entertainment. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the event. To order tickets in advance, contact Cassie Gibbs at 334-654-4679.

The bar night is just one way that Relay for Life is getting ready for its major event in March. This year's theme is "Spotlight on Hope." Participating teams can use favorite movies as themes for their tents at the March event or during any other fundraising events.

There will be music and games at the March event. Teams are invited to sell food or create games to play the night of the event in an effort to raise money for the organization.

Gibbs said the Relay committee is hoping to have a midnight 5K the night of the relay, though it has not been officially finalized. See **Relay**, page 2



Caitlin Collins photo

Isaac Parks, a freshman undeclared major from Birmingham, donates blood at the blood drive hosted by the Omega Psi Phi fraternity on Tuesday. The Charles R. Drew Blood Drive is held in honor of Drew, a member of the fraternity, who "perfected the use of blood plasma," according to the group's website.

MIX & MATCH

CHOOSE YOUR 2 FAVORITES:

Medium 1-Topping Pizza • Deep Dish 1-Topping Pizza
Baked Pasta • Large Sub • Large Chef Salad

\$12.99

Premium toppings extra. Plus sales tax. Expires in 30 Days. Delivery extra.

Hungry Howie's
FLAVORED CRUST PIZZA

1111 US 231 S.
Next to Sherwin Williams

334 **807-9998**

New senators inducted



Brenna Patrick photo

Jorge Solis, a junior political science major from Pell City and vice president of legislative affairs, talks to the newly inducted senators about the responsibilities and requirements of being an SGA senator. Other news discussed during the meeting was a traveling football trophy between Troy and University of South Alabama and Hoopcoming.

Traveling football trophy and Hoopcoming discussed

Cassie Gibbs
News Editor

Newly elected senators were inducted Tuesday into the student senate. The new senators are Emily Cothran and Kirby Hutchins for the College of Education, Brooke Bishop for the College of Health and Human Services, Allyson Waldrop for Cowart Hall, Hannah Crews for Hamill Hall, Katrina Bokenfohr for Sorority Hill, Leandro Guimaraes Froes for Pace Hall, and Alyssa Crow for the at-large senator position.

The Student Government Association placed a resolution on docket that would create a traveling trophy between the University of South Alabama and Troy University.

The resolution stated that the trophy would be created to “improve

competitive rivalry, thus making gameday more enjoyable and fun for both parties involved.”

If passed, the traveling trophy competition will start in the fall semester of 2015. The trophy will then be held at the winning school until the next football season.

SGA announced that work to repave the parking lot on Sorority Hill has begun.

President Matthew Thompson, a junior financial economics major from Montgomery, said that those who park at Sorority Hill should be patient the next few weeks while the work is being done.

“Four years ago, SGA wrote a resolution to improve Sorority Hill parking,” Thompson said. “Fast forward to now, and sorority parking is going to be revamped. The next

few weeks, it’s going to be kind of tight and stressful. But we’re really excited about this.”

A resolution was also passed to repaint the arrows near the Newman Center in order to prevent collisions.

The SGA also placed the Troy University Japan Club’s constitution on docket.

The purpose of this club is to “explore, discuss and experience various aspects of Japanese culture,” according to the club’s constitution.

The Freshman Forum announced that the winner of Hoopcoming, which will be held on Feb. 12, will also receive a \$150 Barnes and Noble gift card and a chance to win an Apple TV.

Gay marriage update

Cassie Gibbs
News Editor

Gay marriage has been a major topic in Alabama’s political world.

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, the 11th Circuit Court in Atlanta denied the state of Alabama a stay on a district judge’s ruling, which allows same-sex marriage in Alabama, according to an al.com article. This ruling makes Alabama the 37th state to allow gay marriage.

U.S. District Judge Callie V.S. Granade ruled Jan. 23 that Alabama’s Marriage Protection Act and the Sanctity of Marriage Amendment were unconstitutional.

An al.com article said that after the Atlanta court’s ruling, the Alabama attorney

general’s office said that it would attempt to contact the U.S. Supreme Court to try to have the ruling overturned.

Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore has made statements against the court’s ruling.

According to the al.com article, Moore said that only the U.S. Supreme Court can “overrule state law.”

He said, in a letter to Alabama’s probate judges, that judges are not required to give marriage licenses to same-sex couples, according to a Huffington Post article.

Because of his remarks about gay marriage in the state of Alabama, the Southern Poverty Law Center has filed a complaint against Moore, according to the group’s

website. The group, on its website, said that Moore “is intoxicated by his own sense of self-righteousness. He doesn’t seem to understand that we’re a nation of laws, not of men.”

The group, a civil rights activist group, has filed a lawsuit in the past against the Marriage Protection Act and the Sanctity of Marriage Amendment.

According to the al.com article, the only way that this ruling can be overturned now is if the U.S. Supreme Court follows the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati’s decision “to reverse lower court rulings” regarding same-sex marriages.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling is expected in June.

Relay

continued from page 1

Relay for Life sets a monetary goal for each organization, along with an overall goal, to raise for cancer research.

“Our overall goal is to raise \$18,000,” Gibbs said. “As an added bonus, if you become a participant and raise \$100, you get a Relay for Life T-shirt.”

Amber Voss, a senior political science major from Wetumpka and a Relay for Life committee member, wants to encourage everyone to donate to Relay for Life.

“This year I’m helping with organizing teams,” Voss said. “My goal this year is to get a lot more of the university involved with the event, because it’s a great event. I’ve had family in my life that have been affected by cancer, and I just want to help raise money and support the cause.”

Anyone who is unable to participate in Relay for Life events is invited to donate to Troy’s Relay for Life event by going to relayforlife.org and searching for the Troy University event.

“This is really important,” Gibbs said. “This event raises money to help find cures for cancer. It’s a really great cause. The least we can do is help others.”

Elite

continued from page 1

exactly what I wanted to do,” Terry said. “Don’t give up.”

She was then initiated as an honorary member of the M.I.S.S. Elite society.

Hawkins used the acronym L.E.A.D.

to inspire the members to use language to effectively communicate, exercise enthusiasm and appropriate etiquette, alter one’s attitude accordingly and direct one’s path with a vision.

“The difference in an educated person and an uneducated person is their ability to communicate,” said Hawkins.

Calling all Troy Campus students! How satisfied are you with your college experience?



THIS FEEDBACK FEBRUARY, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Troy Campus students are invited to participate in the
Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory
February 9th -28th

Check your @troy.edu email account starting Feb. 9th
for your personal survey invitation

Do you like to win? You could win one of ten \$20 Barnes & Noble gift cards!

Every participant will be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$20 gift cards to be given. The earlier you participate, the better your chances of winning. We will draw for the first name on February 9th, and then draw 3 names each on February 13th, 20th, and 27th for a total of 10 names. For further information, contact surveys@troy.edu

Transgender

continued from page 1

name and pronouns. And then others have no trouble whatsoever.

"I'm pretty sure my parents still think it's a phase. My father is more supportive, but my mother doesn't want to hear anything about it. She's more grieving the loss of things she expected to happen, but she has my sisters."

When it comes to people outside his immediate circle, the situation can be even more stressful.

"Basically I'm terrified all the time," he said. "When it comes to being transgender, there's

not one big coming out — it's every day. I've gotten some hateful words and weird looks and gaggles of teenagers loudly trying to figure out what gender I am."

Every day does involve a different struggle.

"Bathrooms are awful," Millard said.

"They're not fun. In one I'm more uncomfortable in general and in the other, I'm more scared and hoping I don't get called

out. I really enjoy handicapped toilets."

There are more long-term problems of being transgender for Millard as well.

From getting his chosen name on his diploma to job discrimination, there are things he will face as his college career draws to a close that most students are not worried about.

"I definitely see it affecting me," he said. "In a lot of jobs there are no protections — if someone doesn't like the fact that I'm trans, they can just fire me or not hire me."

"I know I would love to go to a bigger city like New York," Millard said of his plans after Troy. "I think my absolute dream would be to be a photographer for things like Harper's Bazaar."

Millard also expressed an interest in getting his poetry published.

"I've tried to think of analogies and metaphors, but nothing really," he said of being trans. "In a poem I described it as being a square peg in a round hole. I thought that was a poignant image, and it made a lot of sense."

Despite any difficulties, Millard remains positive about the climate toward the trans population.

"Laverne Cox, she is a beautiful spokesperson and I love her for what she's doing," he said. "People need to change."

Millard also credits the social networking and blogging site Tumblr for educating users and being a "safe place."

"I feel so much better," he said of embracing his identity. "I've changed as a person entirely since I've come out — I'm more comfortable with myself."

"I was trapped; now I'm not so deep in the closet that I'm

"I've changed as a person entirely since I've come out — I'm more comfortable with myself."



Transgender Statistics

65% reported discrimination in one or more public accommodation settings

20% postponed or did not seek health care because of prior mistreatment

41% have attempted suicide

62% report depression

14% are unemployed (vs. 7% of the general population at the survey time)

15% live in poverty (vs. 4% of the general population)

Source: fenwayfocus.org, hrc.org

Taylor Bowser graphic

it still isn't something that he would wish upon himself.

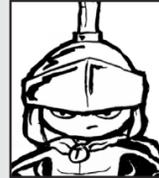
"If a genie popped out and gave me the option to never have felt this way and to be 'normal,' I would do it."

While Millard does not regret the journey he has made so far,

Say WHAT?

The Tropolitan asked a random sampling of students the following question:

What do you think of the new Alabama gay marriage ruling?



"I just can't wait until I can marry myself."
— **The Tropolitan**

"I support gay marriage. I don't see how anyone could try and stop two people who love each other from spending their lives together."
— **Dan Ensej**, a junior social science major from Troy.



"I approve of it. I think that if we preach equal rights between races and genders, we need to include sexuality among that equality. I think it's great that Alabama is now allowing gay marriage."

— **Caiflin Beard**, a junior anthropology major from Hartselle.



"As a Christian, I don't believe I can support it, but I still love all of my friends who identify as LGBT and will continue to be friends with them."
— **Amanda Branson**, a junior marine biology major from Cape Coral, Florida.



CAN A STUDENT DISCOVER THE TRUTH FOR AMERICA?

When you're a part of the CIA, you can.

The CIA has paid student internship, scholarship and co-op opportunities in several fields of study. No matter what you do here, your contributions have great impact — and there is plenty to do. From accounting and finance, to economics, engineering and information technology, the CIA needs talented and intelligent professionals to continue the work that keeps our nation safe.

The CIA is seeking motivated individuals with a sense of service for an exciting and rewarding yet challenging experience. Do you have that drive inside of you?



THE WORK OF A NATION.
THE CENTER OF INTELLIGENCE.

For additional information and to apply, visit:
www.cia.gov



An equal opportunity employer and a drug-free workforce.

Beliefs challenged

Students find university environment conflicts with personal experience when home-schooled

Sheri Kotzum
Contributor

What do the Duggars, Lindsay Lohan's character in "Mean Girls," Tim Tebow and I have in common?

No, I'm not some big star and not all of us always wear pink on Wednesdays, but we all have home schooling in our backgrounds.

Some who are home-schooled can be more extreme, but the majority of us are pretty normal. Of course, normal for us means waking up at 10 a.m. and walking to the couch to do our schoolwork as fast as possible.

While our friends were stuck in classrooms from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, we were going to the zoo, shopping, going on vacation or doing other things that our "normal" friends didn't get to do.

Mom wanted to go shopping? You did your schoolwork in the car. You wanted a three-day weekend? You'd finish Friday's work on Thursday. It was both a blessing and a curse to be able to take school with you wherever you wanted. There were no sick days — unless you were literally dying — and no holidays except for summer and Christmas.

For the most part, the freedom that being home-schooled provided was awesome and benefited me greatly. I was able to travel a lot, and I graduated when I was 16.

But for all the benefits there are, many home-schooled kids struggle with transitioning into the structured and set schedule of college, and I was no exception.

Now, I have to be up at a set time each morning, and I actually have to get dressed to go to school. My teacher isn't my mom or some professor on the television screen. I can't always leave class whenever I am done with my own work, and I have deadlines that aren't flexible. And don't even get me started on group projects.

"There's definitely more structure, but it's a good kind of structure," said Whitney Hartselle, a junior broadcast journalism major from Montevallo, who was home-schooled until third grade and then again in high school. "I never had group projects when I was home-schooled, so I struggle with those a lot.

"And, when you're home-schooled, the quality of your work is held to a higher standard, so I often feel like I have a higher standard for myself than others because of that."

"I was much more comfortable in small classes," said Beth Burdette, a former home-schooler from Palm Bay, Florida, who is currently home-schooling her child. "I also

struggled with group projects. I was used to doing it all myself, and I didn't like my grade being reliant on other people."

No matter how socialized you were while you were home-schooled, there's always some kind of culture shock with respect to college.

When you've been at home all your life and your friends are mostly from church, you're not used to being challenged on your beliefs. If you are, it's coming from your pastor or someone who already has the same views as you.

College changes that completely.

I grew up in a very conservative Christian home. My parents instilled in me strong family values, and we were constantly involved in church. When I started community college, it was strange that my professors and classmates didn't have the same views as I. Don't get me wrong; I wasn't naive, and I knew that people had different beliefs and values, but I never realized that some people would challenge and ridicule me for mine.

All of a sudden, I was in the minority because of my beliefs. Because of this, it forced me to examine what I believe and why I believe it. It's made me stronger in my faith and my convictions. I'm better at discussing my beliefs and, at times, defending them. Now I love being challenged because I know it helps me grow and learn.

Most of the time, I am challenged about my religious beliefs and personal convictions. I have chosen not to drink until I'm 21, and I am constantly being questioned and tested on that. My friends are always trying to persuade me to have at least a sip.

I am confronted with types of people and circumstances I never thought I would encounter. It is not enough to just say "I'm a Christian" anymore. I have to be able to explain why and really believe it.

I had to take a biology class my freshman year, and my professor was a strong atheist. There were a few times he and I got into some heated debates over evolution and the theories he was teaching.

While some people may see home schooling as a disadvantage, I wouldn't change anything about the way I was educated. It taught me the importance of hard work and to think outside the box, and it helped me form tight bonds with my parents.

And, seriously, who wouldn't want to do schoolwork while on a road trip around New England?

Sheri Kotzum is a junior broadcast journalism major from Melbourne, Florida.



Hannah Crews photo

Kayla Sprayberry, a junior mathematics and computer science double major from Ashland, working as a team leader with Sodexo. Students with high-responsibility jobs find them a challenging but beneficial experience.

Demanding jobs give helpful skills

Tyler Wooley
Contributor

home.

"My parents understood," Hollis said.

Besides schoolwork, students with high-responsibility jobs also face unique struggles.

With jobs such as managers at establishments, students often have less time for schoolwork.

"It causes me to be extremely tired in class and sometimes miss out on review sessions," said Kayla Sprayberry, a junior mathematics and computer science double major from Ashland.

Sprayberry works 40 to 50 hours every week as a team leader with Sodexo, which can affect other things, also.

"I have caught myself doing homework in my car before class," Sprayberry said. "Making sure I eat

I know how these two feel. I work as an assistant manager for Piggly Wiggly.

I work between 30 and 40 hours every week, which barely leaves me enough time to finish my schoolwork.

Finding time to do most anything requires planning weeks in advance, requesting a day off

and hoping that the other two managers can work for me.

Most days I get home late, and some days I have to leave home before my wife even thinks about waking up.

There is a specific set of issues for students who have these jobs, but not all of

"A job with high expectations is time-consuming ... but the lessons it teaches will have a lasting impact."

"It builds pressure to your everyday schedule, but also teaches time management skills," she said.

Sprayberry's situation is not an unfamiliar one. Destiny Hollis, a freshman business major from Gulf Shores, also has difficulties finding time.

Hollis works 20 to 25 hours a week as shift manager for Domino's Pizza, is a member of Kappa Delta sorority and holds the position of publicity chair for Freshman Forum.

"I couldn't go home for Christmas break," Hollis said. "I had to stay and work."

Hollis said that she got to spend some time with her family for the holidays, but never actually went

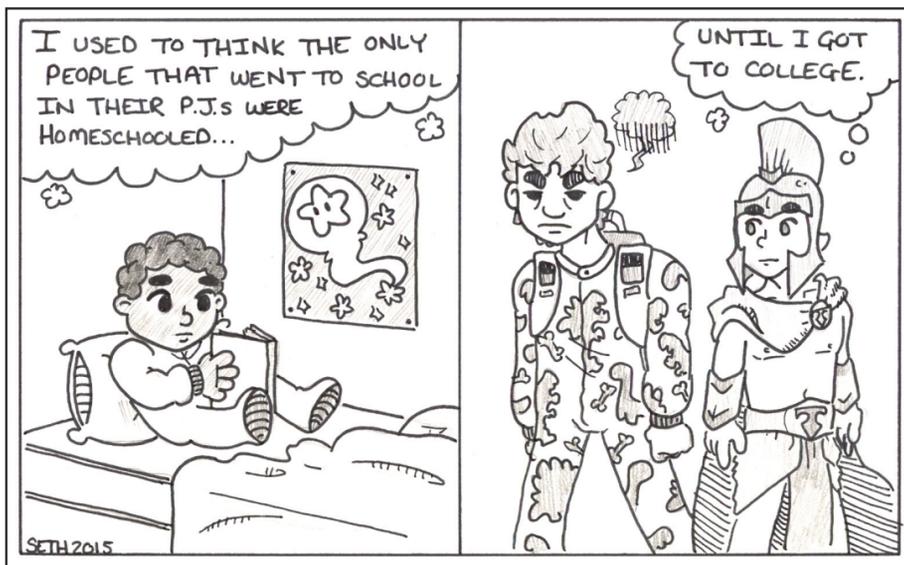
them are bad. "I am blessed to have a catering job that has given me the opportunity to meet so many types of people and have conversations that have led to internship offers," Sprayberry said.

It is not easy to get and keep a job like this, especially while being enrolled in school.

The opportunity to have a job with high expectations is time-consuming and can take a lot of management skills, but the lessons it teaches will have a lasting impact.

"Anyone who has a manager-type job, I have to look up to them," Hollis said.

Tyler Wooley is a junior multimedia journalism major from Gulf Shores.



Seth Nicholson

EDITORIAL POLICIES

As Troy University's official student newspaper, the Tropolitan strives to serve student interests. The Opinion 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. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Troy University or the Hall School of Journalism and Communication.

Editorials stand as the official, corporate opinion of the

Tropolitan. Our opinions are not influenced by campus organizations 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 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 fa-

vorable 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.

THE TROY UNIVERSITY TROPOLITAN

Troy University's Student Newspaper

103 Wallace Hall
Troy, Alabama 36082

newswire@tropnews.com

TropNews.com

Editor-in-Chief

Chase Robinson

Business Manager

Kira Oliver

News Editor

Cassie Gibbs

Sports Editor

Jill Odom

Opinion Editor

Ngoc Vo

A&E Editor

Kianna Collins

Features Editor

Alyse Nelson

Variety Editor

Grishma Rimal

Photo Editor

April Irvin

Cartoons

Seth Nicholson

Chief Copy Editor

Laura Hutto

Copy Editors

Jane Morrell, Nik Knighten, Thomas Gleaton, Jessica Smith, Beth Hyatt

Staff Writers

Tori Roper, Jamie Bennett, Valario Johnson, Lilly Casolaro, Wally Pendergrass, Michael Shipma, Destiny Hosmer, Pierce Godwin, Hannah Hartline, Mosy Ferrell, Ty Ammons, Wes Fortson, Lacey Alexander

Photographers

Jennifer Carlisle, Caitlin Collins, Hannah Crews, Caleb Hicks, Brenna Patrick, Trey

Walker

Graphic Design Editor

Taylor Bowser

Ad Sales

Alex Lewis, Kendall Carbonie

Web Master/Social Media

Joshua Thurston

Adviser

Steve Stewart

Troy African-American Read-In

Josh Richards
Staff Writer

The Troy Public Library and the National Council of Teachers of English are sponsoring the 2015 African-American Read-In event, in honor of Black History Month. This will be the event's 26th year.

The Read-In will be held at the public library Monday through Thursday every week in February. The Troy Chapter of the National Council of Teachers of English and Troy University students from select English and English Language Arts courses will read to and with students.

The program involves all Pike County students from elementary to high school. Readers of all levels and ages are welcome.

Teresa Colvin, the children's librarian at Troy's public library, said that the program is an attempt to expose students to more literature.

"We want to encourage a lot of students who have not taken the time to get involved in the diversity of literature to just pick up a book and read," Colvin said. "We have geared the event to making them (students) feel OK discussing topics in books, which we hope will make them feel more comfortable."

The Read-In, endorsed by the International Reading Association, will promote reading for pleasure, as well as reading comprehension, and will share and celebrate works from professional African-American writers, African-American literature and art that celebrates the African-American experience.

Patricia Waters, an assistant English professor and the faculty sponsor of Troy's chapter of NCTE, is one of the coordinators of the event.

"The Read-In is a national initiative to support literacy and to support the reading of African-American literature in communities across the United States," Waters said. "Whether it's information, history, fiction or fantasy books, we are here to support reading."

Waters said that the Read-In will not only increase awareness, but will also promote a better relationship between students and literature.

"It opens up a dialogue for students to talk about reading," Waters said. "Students want to talk about what they've read and what they like to read."



Caitlin Collins photo

Ronje McCullough (left), a fifth-grade Troy Elementary student, and Matt Firpo (right), a sophomore English education major from Birmingham, read together at the Troy University Read-In, an event to connect students and literature. This year, it focuses on African-American writers.

The event, Waters said, will also benefit those people who want to read to the students.

"What they learn is how important the relationship that reading creates is, and I hope it will also inform them to foster reading in their own family setting."

The Read-In focuses on the diversity of literature and shows students that literacy is still important.

"Academic success is still predicated on literacy," Waters said. "Students need to be literate not only in terms of translating letters on the page, but also in their interactions with other people. Engaging in conversation and interaction with literature can foster the development of the child."

Many of the university-student readers believe that the African-American Read-In is beneficial for the students of the community.

Susannah McQuitty, a senior English major from Franklin, North Carolina, and student reader, said that

it is important to expose the students to various types of literature.

"I definitely think that it will impact the students," McQuitty said. "In many cases, parents don't have time to expose their kids to the diversity of literature. Sometimes it's easier to put them in a room with a movie or an Xbox. Exposing them to literature, I think, is the best thing we can do."

Carlisia Moore, a senior English education major from Tuscaloosa and another student reader, said that she is excited to take part in the event.

"I do think this will be a great event," Moore said. "We're just here to encourage young readers to read and bring back the principle that reading is diverse, valuable and important. These students are looking for someone to look up to, so we want to portray a positive image. I look forward to hearing the students say, 'This is really cool,' or 'I can relate to that.'"

Barbara McBride-Smith performs for university



(left) Caleb Hicks and (right) Kianna Collins photos

Barbara McBride-Smith, a famous storyteller performed Friday, Jan. 30, at a preview of the Pike Piddlers Storytelling Festival, to an audience of Troy University and local elementary school students. She told the story of Perseus and Medusa in a child-friendly manner, relating the tale to her audience. She also laced in a few pop culture references in her story, such as calling the shoes Hermes gave to Perseus Nike Air Jordans. "Just do it," McBride-Smith said. Her story included many different characters, for which she had different voices. And as with any story, she ended it with a moral. She recalled a saying from her grandmother: "Beauty is only skin deep. Ugly goes clean through to the bone."

2/6 - 12

Continental Cinemas

Student Discount with ID
Tickets Available @ kiosk
In The Trojan Center & Theatre

<p>PROJECT ALMANAC 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35 PG-13</p>	<p>THE BOY NEXT DOOR 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45 R</p>	<p>JUPITER ASCENDING 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35 PG-13</p>	<p>THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE SPONGE OUT OF WATER 3D 1:10, 4:10 3D 7:10, 9:30 PG</p>	<p>ENTOURAGE 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40 PG-13</p>	<p>AMERICAN SNIPER 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:25 R</p>
--	---	--	---	---	--

Domino's

WAVE

LOCATION
808 S George Wallace Dr.
Troy, AL 36081

CALL IN DELIVERY/CARRYOUT
334.566.1234

ORDER ONLINE: www.dominos.com

Walking with their heads a little higher

Students in the military talk about the opportunities and challenges faced

Valario Johnson
Staff Writer

While juggling 15 credit hours a semester becomes a stretch for many students in college, there are students on the other end of the spectrum who are managing their military lives alongside their academics.

Cheria Chiglo, a senior criminal justice major from Mankato, Minnesota, is a part of the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Troy. Chiglo, currently on active duty, said that while the early mornings and late nights may have seemed like a hindrance to her education at times, it has made her



Caleb Hicks photo

Michael Pentecost, a junior social science major from Temple, Texas, is in the ROTC, training to be an officer.

overall quality of education better.

“With the discipline I have developed from the military, I manage my time as needed, finish work more efficiently and keep a tight schedule when hitting deadlines,” she said.

Chiglo said that the opportunities provided by the program, which paid for her college education, encouraged her to join the Army. Growing up in a military household was another influencing factor.

Kyle Horne, a sophomore social science education major from Bainbridge, Georgia, said a childhood desire to sport the Marine uniform led him to join the Marine Corps.

“Kind of a lame story, but when I was in the fourth grade, I saw a Marine in dress blues walk into my elementary school,” Horne said. “I said then that I wanted to be able to wear those one day.”

“Marines are known in a number of different ways to be the ‘best’ or ‘most disciplined’ at a number of different things. For me, there was never any hesitation. I wanted to be a part of what I considered to be the best.”

Horne said that as a reservist, his obligations are not “excessive by any means” and rather manageable alongside his classes. “One weekend a month, two weeks in the summer and barring any deployments that may come up isn’t too bad of a gig,” he said.

Horne said he feels that joining the military — regardless of the branch — is a good thing for anybody. Even if one thinks that he or she is responsible and disciplined, boot camps always teach a person more and can make a person better.

He said that at the age of 18 or 19, fresh out of high school, joining the military could help anyone learn to be a man or a woman. It teaches invaluable skills that can help an individual personally and professionally down the line.

Jake Cook, a recent Troy graduate who was a part of the Army ROTC program during his undergraduate years, said, “I didn’t hesitate because I knew I wanted to be in the military since I was younger.”

“Sorry, guys, I gotta go home and sleep — I’ve got PT in the morning,” was a common phrase that he had to use. But while he may have had to cut down on the time he spent with his friends, being a part of the ROTC program, he said, helped him open up and improve his communication skills.

“Without it, I would be a very timid and shy person,” he said. “It really helped me to open up.”

Chiglo said that she is the person she is today due to her Army training. “The military has shaped me in many ways, such as through leadership, discipline and increased work ethic,” she said. “Through ROTC, I have had the ability to attend Army Airborne School,

which was one of the most exciting experiences of my life. I have also been able to maintain a healthy diet and keep in shape.”

Chiglo’s reservation about the Army was all the travel that it included and being unable to stay in one location. “I still worry about it, but I don’t look at it as a disadvantage, but more of an opportunity to see new places,” she said.

According to Chiglo, taking night classes and working extra hard to finish her work, even when she was tired, was difficult when first starting out. Being a part of the Sound of the South, Troy University’s marching band, added to her time commitment.

“I have also had a few weekends a semester where I had to miss class in order to attend a training event where I was unable to do any kind of work for school,” she said. “It was difficult at times to keep up, but it made me stronger as a person and great at multitasking.”

Horne said that during initial training, he had to miss an entire semester of school and most of his summer, which proved to be a definite hindrance. “But, in the grand scheme of things, the pros for that far outweigh the cons,” he said. “Most of the time, I will have to miss my Friday classes for drill, but they are excused absences. Not really that bad, but take it for what you will.”

Horne said that although people do not join the military for respect or honor, he feels it allows him to walk around campus with his head a little higher. “Most people here don’t even know I’m a Marine, but those that do are always willing to show some love.”

Last week’s Sudoku Solutions

1	5	7	6	9	3	2	8	4
6	4	3	8	1	2	7	9	5
9	2	8	4	7	5	1	6	3
8	1	2	7	4	9	5	3	6
7	3	6	2	5	8	4	1	9
4	9	5	1	3	6	8	2	7
5	8	1	3	6	4	9	7	2
2	6	9	5	8	7	3	4	1
3	7	4	9	2	1	6	5	8

Troy SGA Elections

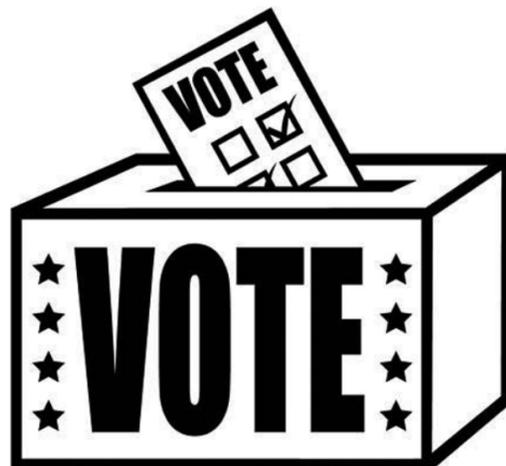
Executive applications are available online at the Troy SGA website!

**For more contact
sgavote@troy.edu**

These applications are due by Tuesday, February 10, 2015 in the SGA office.

Elections will be held Wednesday, February 25, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the TC 215 for all these positions.

A student ID is required to vote. Please come out to let your voice be heard to select the next leaders of the SGA!



NEW GRILLED CHICKEN

— PREMIUM-CUT STRIPS —

All white meat chicken. No artificial flavors or preservatives.

SUBWAY

eat fresh.®



Monterey Chicken Melt

Trojans tame the Mavericks

Wally Pendergrass
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team split a pair of games this week, grabbing a convincing victory at home and losing a close match on the road.

On Thursday, Jan. 29, Troy pummeled ULM in the Trojan Arena with a final score of 90-51.

The Trojans used their ferocious defense to get a school record 23 steals while forcing 39 turnovers overall. The Trojans scored 41 points off turnovers.

The Trojans were dominating the game by halftime, leading 47-14 at the break. The second half was far closer with ULM scoring 37 points while Troy shot 43 points, but the Warhawks were unable to overcome their deficit.

Senior forward Ronita Garrett got her third straight double-double, scoring 19 points and grabbing 12 rebounds.

Junior guard Ashley Beverly-Kelley led the Trojans with 23 points, while junior guard Rachel Reid finished the night with 17 points.

Troy's success at the free-throw line also contributed to its lead. The Warhawks gathered only four fast-break points, while the Trojans scored 20.

"This was a very good win against a good ULM team that almost beat us at their place just two weeks ago," said head coach Chanda Rigby.

Kicking off its three-game road trip, Troy traveled to Arlington, Texas, on Saturday, Jan. 31, to face off with the Mavericks.

The Trojans played solid defense again on the road against UT Arlington, but a poor shooting effort led to a 70-67 loss.

The Trojans forced 31 UT Arlington turnovers, but converted those turnovers into only 17 points.

"Our biggest problem was scoring with numbers," Rigby said. "We had 10 chances to score on numbers in the first half that we missed."

Garrett once again claimed a double-double with 20



Joshua Thurston photo

Junior guard Rachel Reid reached double digits in the home game against ULM on Thursday, Jan. 29. She also made half of her three-point shots during the night, making five out of 10.

points and 11 rebounds. Beverly-Kelley once again led the team in scoring with 22 points.

The Trojans struggled to score, shooting only 28 percent on the night. Even Beverly-Kelley shot only 24 percent from the floor. Troy did manage to make 90.5 percent of its free throw shots.

However, the Mavericks made 52.1 percent from the floor and 42.9 percent from behind the arc, leaving Troy scrambling to catch up.

Troy is tied for third place in the Sun Belt after the week. The Trojans travel to take on second-place

Arkansas State in Jonesboro, Arkansas, on Thursday, Feb. 5.

Arkansas State is on a three-game winning streak and recently defeated Troy in Trojan Arena on Jan. 24.

Troy then travels to Boone, North Carolina, to take on Appalachian State on Saturday, Feb. 7.

The Trojans defeated the Mountaineers earlier this season 91-87.

On Thursday, Feb. 17, Troy returns home to play South Alabama at 5:15 p.m.

Men's basketball picks up road win

Michael Shipma
Staff Writer

The Troy men's basketball team split its last two games with a loss at home to ULM in overtime 58-55 and a victory on the road against UT Arlington 55-54. With that win, the Trojans (8-12, 3-8 Sun Belt) snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Trojans' first game was on Thursday, Jan. 29, against ULM, which at the time was third in the Sun Belt standings. The Warhawks (13-8, 7-3 Sun Belt) jumped out to a quick 6-0 start, and it seemed as if they might run away with the game early.

Troy battled back, however, and went on a 21-3 run in the first half, as it looked to get out of a three-game slump in conference play. Senior guard Musa Abdul-Aleem led the Trojans with 11 points in the first half, and they went into halftime with a controlling lead, 31-21.

Troy continued to play well to start the second half, as it expanded its lead to 37-24 with 16:49 left in the game. It would be from that point that the Trojans lost control of the game.

The Warhawks went on a 21-7 run in the second half to retake the lead. Junior guard Mack Foster and junior forward Majok Deng both had a total of 15 points during the game to lead ULM as they put the pressure on Troy with their three-point shooting. The Warhawks made six out of 14 shots from beyond the arc, and they forced the game into overtime with the score tied at 50.

Despite falling behind quickly in overtime, the Trojans were able to bounce back and had an opportunity to tie and take the lead after a flagrant foul

was called on ULM. However, poor free-throw shooting down the stretch kept the Trojans out of the game, and they lost 58-55.

"I didn't think we could get a tougher loss than last Saturday, but we trumped it tonight," said head coach Phil Cunningham. "To have that big lead in the second half and to let them come back is just very frustrating. We put ourselves in a position to win again, but we just didn't finish."

The Trojans bounced back from the loss, however, and went on the road on Saturday, Jan. 31, to face UT-Arlington (12-9, 6-5 Sun Belt), which was fourth in the conference standings at the time.

Troy started slow and seemed tired as it fell behind early to the Mavericks, who shot 42.9 percent from the floor. The Trojans seemed unable to generate much offense and were trailing 32-22 going into the locker room.

The second half was a different story, however, as Troy bounced back from the deficit thanks to 10 points from junior forward John Walton III. The Trojans shot 40 percent from the floor to even out the score, and made 11 out of 12 shots from the free throw line to come back and win.

With only three seconds left to play, and down by one, sophomore guard Kelton Ford stepped up to the free-throw line and made two key free throws to secure the win for the Trojans.

The win snapped a four-game skid for Troy, as it improved to 3-8 in conference play. It will look to keep this momentum going as the Trojans go on the road to face Appalachian State on Thursday, Feb. 5. Tipoff is set for 7:30 pm.

Tennis teams win weekend match

Ty Ammons
Staff Writer

The Troy Trojans men's and women's tennis teams each had one match this past weekend. The men faced off against the Georgia State Panthers in Atlanta, and the women took on the Alabama State Hornets in Montgomery.

The women's team won its match on Friday, Jan. 30, against Alabama State. The Trojans swept the Hornets, not losing a single set.

Freshman Sanae Ohta won her singles match 6-1, 6-1 against junior Arantxia Wijngaarde. Junior Trang Huynh won her match against sophomore Marine Cartier 6-2, 7-5. Junior Anja Cosovic won her match against sophomore Irina Cvijovic 6-2, 6-0.

Freshman Jiayuan Xue won her match 6-1, 6-0 against sophomore Brankica Orlovic. Freshman Linnea Skymberg won her match 6-0, 6-2 against sophomore Matabe Akoachere, and freshman Julia Albuquerque won her match against junior Brianna Fairley 6-0, 6-1.

Troy dominated in the doubles matches as well. Cosovic and Huynh played line one doubles

and defeated Wijngaarde and Cartier 6-2. Ohta and Xue played line two doubles and won 6-2 against Orlovic and Cvijovic, and junior Margot De Haan and Albuquerque beat Akoachere and Fairley 6-1.

won his match against sophomore Zackery Kennedy 6-4, 7-5. Junior Giovanni Samaha won 6-3, 6-2 against junior Joseph Bishop.

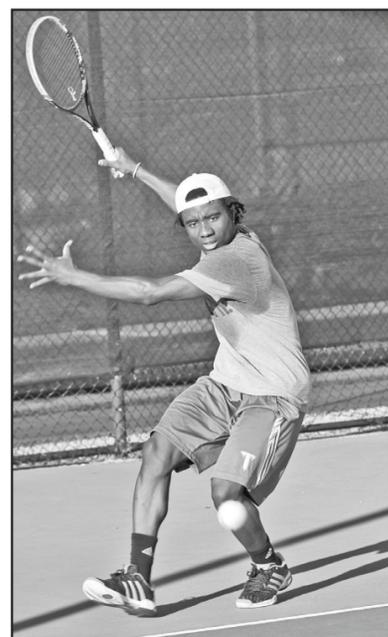
Freshman Andy Lau, sophomore Pablo Moreno and junior Daniel Bustamante had close matches, but couldn't pull it out in the end.

Troy lost its line one doubles, but won lines two and three. Ndayishimye and Lau won their match against Koeke and freshman Sebastian Acuna 7-6, and Dias and freshman Cyprian Owczarz won 7-6 against sophomore Valentin Horvat and freshman Andrei Andrukhou. Samaha and Moreno lost 6-3.

The men's and women's tennis teams have two matches each next weekend. The women will take

on UNC Wilmington on Saturday, Feb. 7, in Jacksonville, Florida. They will take on North Florida on Sunday, Feb. 8, in Jacksonville, Florida as well.

The men's team will play against Southern Miss on Saturday, Feb. 7, in its first home competition, and then the Trojans will play Ole Miss on Sunday, Feb. 8, in Oxford, Mississippi.



Caleb Hicks photo

Sophomore Hassan Ndayishimye won singles and doubles matches.

The men's team also won its matchup against Georgia State on Saturday, Jan. 31, which brings it to a 4-3 record on the season, and its second straight Sun Belt Conference win.

Troy won three of its six singles matches and two of its three doubles matches. Junior Gabriel Dias won 1-6, 6-2, 6-2 against sophomore Jannis Koeke. Sophomore Hassan Ndayishimye



Go to **Tropnews.com** for an article on Signing Day and a column on Super Bowl commercials.

♦ **TEXTBOOK BUYBACK**
♦ **100 FULL Color Flyers \$39.00**
♦ **Professor & Student B/W Copies @ .06¢**

SELL your
textbooks
HERE

We can print your banners and signs!

Grand openings • Graduations
Corporate events • Parties



The UPS Store

You've read what we write. Now hear what we have to say. The **TropCast** will be a 15-minute program available at **tropnews.com** every Wednesday.

Trojans anew: New coach, new facility

Wes Fortson
Staff Writer

Thursday will be head coach Beth Mullins' first night at the helm of the Troy softball team as it kicks its season off. Mullins was hired by the university and the director of athletics, John Hartwell, on June 17, 2014.

"The job opened up, and you know, I'm a south Alabama girl and it's (Troy) a great university and a great opportunity," Mullins said. "I was very fortunate that I got an opportunity to work here, and it's been a great ride since."

Mullins was recently an assistant coach at Mississippi State for three years and has also had coaching history at Western Kentucky, Georgia Southern and UAB.

Another new factor is the recently completed Troy Softball Complex. A \$3 million renovation with turf fields and better player amenities.

Prior to the season,

the players have had to overcome a few new things themselves, such as new coaching tactics and plans from the new head coach.

"This spring we just picked up right where we left off in the fall, and they have been working their tails off," Mullins said. "I have been very impressed. They have transformed themselves through strength and conditioning and mentally transformed themselves through that, and our jobs as coaches is to get their skills to where they need to be, and I think we've done a good job of that."

Mullins seemed optimistic about her team being prepared for its first game on Thursday in Auburn.

"My only expectation is that they just go out there and play it and everything they've worked for will work out," Mullins said.

Not only does the softball team have a new head coach this year, but there were also a few new

faces that were added to the roster in the fall. Coach Mullins explained that although there may be a lot of talent on the team, to her, everybody is basically a freshman and everybody will play a role in helping the team be successful this season.

Last year Troy tied Auburn in Troy 5-5, but the game was called off when rain ended it. Later that season, Troy had a second chance to upset Auburn on its home turf; however, the Trojans fell by a score of 13-5 in five innings.

Mullins looks to bring home a win to start off her career here at Troy, and she seemed confident that her players have bought into the plan she has for them this year.

The Trojan softball team opens its season on the road Thursday, Feb. 5, against Auburn at 6 p.m. The Trojans will return home to play Florida A&M on Friday, Feb. 6.



Joshua Thurston photo

New softball coach Beth Mullins prepares her players for Thursday, Feb. 5.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 AM To NOON

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER, HAMIL HALL

Dr. Paul Delaney
Gynecology



Dr. Dulaney joins TRMC as a Board Certified Gynecologist with over 14 years of experience, specializing in women's services and gynecological surgery. He performed his residency at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC. He currently serves as Chief of Staff at Troy Regional Medical Center. Dr. Dulaney's office is located in the Medical Office Building located on the TRMC campus.

- Clinics will begin **Wednesday, February 18, 2015**
- Walk-ins are welcome
- Appointments will be accepted
- Insurance will be accepted

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES COUNCIL AND TROY UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS PRESENTS

UAC SPRING CONCERT

FEATURING

NEED TO BREATHE

SPECIAL GUEST

BEN RECTOR

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015
TROJAN ARENA AT 7:00 PM

Student Tickets \$15.00 | General Public \$30.00
Student tickets can be purchased from 10 AM to 2 PM from the Trojan Center Food Court, Mon. - Fri.
General Public Tickets Can Be Purchased At:
<https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/team.asp?SponsorID=7519#.VNjq613F-Ag>

National Association of Black Journalists
Along With University Activities Council
Of Troy University Proudly Presents

APOLLO NIGHT

ADVANCE TICKETS \$3
AT THE DOOR \$5

SHOW STARTS AT 7:00
CROSBY THEATER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015