

What's Inside:

50th anniversary of Selma march celebrated. **Selma, pg. 3**

"Into the Woods" starts at the Blackbox Theater on Thursday. **A&E, pg. 6**



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Sorority road being repaved



Caleb Hicks photo

Renovations began on the parking lots and roads behind Sorority Hill. Potholes and erosion to the road that caused damage to cars, as well as little room for parking at the houses, drew complaints from many sorority women. This action was the result of an SGA resolution from four years ago.

A 4-year-old resolution finally creates action

Cassie Gibbs
News Editor

The parking issue on campus has been addressed, at least at Sorority Hill.

Four years ago, the Student Government Association, under the leadership of William Fillmore, passed a resolution to have the parking lots behind the sorority houses repaved.

According to Erin Salter, a junior nursing major from Orange Beach, a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and president of the Panhellenic Council, this was a much-needed renovation.

"It will definitely help with the morale of the sororities," Salter said. "Before, with the issue of not having enough parking space, things would get testy with parking in other sororities' parking lots because there was no room."

"It was a terrible parking situation for all of us. Now we will have no more damage to our cars, which was a problem as well."

Slayton Scott, a junior business

major from Panama City Beach, Florida, and president of the Phi Mu sorority, also said that damage to cars was common at Sorority Hill.

"Before, it was hard," Scott said. "Our cars would get messed up, and you would have to take your car to the shop."

"Now, driving will be better. There won't be any potholes, and there will be no problem parking at the houses instead of at Elm Street gym."

Mary Beth Wasden, a junior marketing major from Troy and president of Kappa Delta sorority, said that she also sees better parking experiences in the future after renovations are done.

"Our lot had several big holes," Wasden said. "We are looking forward to a paved lot for the sake of our cars and simpler and easier parking."

The reason behind a four-year wait for renovations is based on the decisions of the administration and availability of funds.

Matt Thompson, a junior account-

ing major from Montgomery and president of SGA, said: "Things with infrastructures and parking, it gets expensive. All we can do as an SGA is pass resolutions, such as that one. Whether they do something or not, it's up to the administration to make that decision."

Mark Salmon, director of Troy University's physical plant, could not be reached for comment on the price of the renovations or how long the construction would last.

Barbara Patterson, director of student involvement and panhellenic adviser, said that sorority members were thankful for the start of the renovations.

"We are grateful to have the parking behind Sorority Hill repaved," Patterson said. "The sorority women have had lots of damage to their cars over the years due to large potholes and the road washing away. This will be a wonderful improvement."

Student aims to challenge social media

Lilly Casolaro
Staff Writer

One of this year's senior thesis projects, #theilovemeproject, aims to use social media to spread positive self-esteem and body image among the student population.

The creator of this project, Ashley Crowe, a senior graphic design major from Montgomery, began it for males and females on Troy University's campus.

"Everybody talks about how social media can be very negative, and I'm trying to show that the entirety of social media is not just a place where people are cruel to you," Crowe said.

Each student in the course was tasked to create a different project, and Crowe chose to encourage random Troy students to

share what they love about themselves.

"Some people know right away, and, for others, it takes a while to name one characteristic they like about themselves," Crowe said.

The participant's picture is then taken with a cutout heart that displays the characteristic he described about himself.

"It's easy for people to tell you 'you're pretty' or 'you're smart,' but it's another thing for you to think about what you like about yourself," Crowe said.

Kirra Merriweather, a freshman broadcast journalism major from Tuscaloosa, said that the project allowed her to value herself despite societal labels.

"I gained a sense of

See **Project**, page 2



Contributed by Ashley Crowe

Pablo Moreno, a sophomore business major from Gran Canaria, Spain, participated in #theilovemeproject, which promotes positive self-image, by saying what he loved about himself.

ITP Club to hold conference



Jill Odom photo

Wesley Sunday, a junior interpreter training major from Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, and Dorothy Vernon, a senior interpreter training major from Sterrett, discuss the interpreter training program club's weekend conference, Alabama Interpreter Metamorphosis (AIM). The event will include American Sign Language (ASL) Idol and a presentation from Windell "Wink" Smith Jr. Both events are \$5 and will be held in Hawkins Hall Room 122 from 7-9 p.m.

State Games help needed

Destiny Hosmer
Staff Writer

Volunteers are needed to help with this year's annual Special Olympics Alabama Games.

According to SpecialOlympics.org, Special Olympics Alabama was founded in 1968 and provides services and opportunities to thousands of athletes and volunteers during 300 annual competitions.

The mission of Special Olympics Alabama is to tackle inactivity, intolerance, isolation and injustice that people with intellectual disabilities face through sports, health, education and community programming.

Troy University came to host the Special Olympics nine years ago, according to Herbert Reeves, dean of student services.

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Computer science students place third Project

Cassie Gibbs
News Editor

In a nationally recognized coding competition, four Troy University students came in third place.

The second annual Student Coding Contest was hosted by Pearson Higher Education.

The contest challenges students to “develop relevant, innovative, creative, functional and original applications that integrate with the Pearson (application program interface) APIs,” according to the group’s website.

Vijay Mago, a computer science professor, said that the competition was broken into different rounds.

“The first thing in the competition was for the students to present their ideas,” Mago said. “There were 36 ideas presented in the competition. From the ideas presented, Pearson chose seven teams.”

The seven teams then developed the products and submitted them for judging. Three finalists are chosen based on the product developed.

“This year, there was a tie,” Mago said. “So, they (Pearson) chose the three finalists based on whether the products were in the final stage of production or not.”

The winners presented their products at a conference held in Denver.

First place winners received a \$5,000 award. Second place winners received a \$2,500 award, and third place received a \$1,000 award.

Entries were submitted from September to mid-November, and the conference was held Feb. 20.

“The students (who presented at the conference) were invited to apply for internships with Pearson,” Mago said. “I feel they will have a good chance of getting (one).”

Yhlas Jorayev, a junior computer science major from Turkmenistan and one of the students who participated in the competition, said that this competition was a new endeavor for him and the rest of the team.

“This was the first project for every member of our team,” Jorayev said. “We had to learn new programming language and tools before we used them to develop the application.”

“It was very challenging, interesting and exciting for us.”

Chris Seigler, a sophomore computer science major from Daleville, was the team member who presented the application in the Colorado conference.

“I enjoyed the contest,” Seigler said. “It allowed me to explore the



Vijay Mago

computer science field more hands-on and in-depth than in my classes. I was both enlightening and exciting.

“I was the team member who was flown out to Denver, Colorado, to present our project to the judges at Pearson’s offices as a finalist, and there I met many professionals in the field who passed along great advice to further my career.”

The other team members were Ryan Jones, a sophomore computer science major from Troy, and Nicholas Brantley, a sophomore computer science major from Pell City.

Mago said that he was proud of the hard work of his students.

“I am proud and amazed. These students have great ideas,” he said. “They worked hard, sometimes staying up to 2 a.m. or 3 a.m. I am very proud.”

continued from page 1 worth from this experience because I realized that there are actually a lot of things I love about myself,” Merriweather said.

“We are so quick to bash our weight or our appearance because of what society thinks we should look like. But when I encountered this project, I saw a lot of individuals just like me finally realizing that we love ourselves no matter what society says.”

Crowe shares the photo of the participant on the #theilovemeproject social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr.

Amanda Branson, a junior marine biology major from Cape Coral, Florida, said participating in the project was a refreshing approach to redefining what is typically considered the norm on social media.

“It was really cool to see inclusion promoted

rather than exclusion and negative thoughts, which is what society typically considers as ‘normal or acceptable’ on social media,” Branson said.

The goal for Crowe is for this project to create a positive ripple effect.

“If you can get one person to name one positive thing about themselves and they can show it, then they can show someone else, who will show someone else, and so on,” Crowe said.

The cutout hearts are available by contacting Crowe.

“I would recommend all Troy students participate and get involved in this project to see all the great that they are able to offer to themselves and this campus,” Merriweather said.

For more information, please contact Ashley Crowe at 334-590-1579 or acrowe39703@troy.edu.

Help

continued from page 1

“We hosted the Olympics many years ago, and then they rotated to various venues around the state,” Reeves said. “Nine years ago, we were approached about hosting the state games again and have done so since. This will be our ninth consecutive year hosting the games.”

This year Troy University expects approximately 1,400 athletes, coaches and chaperones from throughout Alabama to come to the competitions based on

last year’s attendance.

“We had approximately 1,400 athletes, coaches and chaperones participate in the 2014 games,” Reeves said. “Of the 1,400 that attended, about 950 of them were athletes that participated in the various events.”

This year’s theme is “United We Win.”

Special Olympics volunteer applications are being accepted at this time.

Last year, approximately 600 volunteers helped with the events from Friday through Sunday.

Due to the equally large amount of participants that will be attending this year, those who are able to help with at least one event during the games are encouraged to fill out a volunteer application.

For those who cannot volunteer, you are invited to come support and cheer on the participants.

“Just being there in support of the athletes makes a huge difference,” Reeves said.

The Special Olympics Alabama Games will be on May 15-17, 2015.

School hosts tournament

Cassie Gibbs
News Editor

Troy’s Hall School of Journalism and Communication is hosting its first golf tournament.

The tournament is meant to both raise funds for the school’s general fund and recognize alumni.

“We used to have an awards banquet to recognize alumni and current students,” said Jeff Spurlock, director of Hall School. “Over the years, attendance was not stellar. So we thought, let’s try something different.”

“The awards banquets that we had in the past, we weren’t making any money. With this, we will.”

There are currently 13 teams that have

signed up for the tournament. Spurlock said that sign up for the tournament is available until Friday.

There is a \$50 fee for students and alumni to attend the tournament, and a \$60 fee for anyone else who wishes to participate.

This fee covers lunch at Troy’s country club, where the tournament will be held, and 18 holes of golf.

“If you just want to come out and have lunch with us, and not play, it’s \$10,” Spurlock said.

The tournament will be held Monday, March 23. Lunch will start at 11 a.m., and tee-off will begin at 12.

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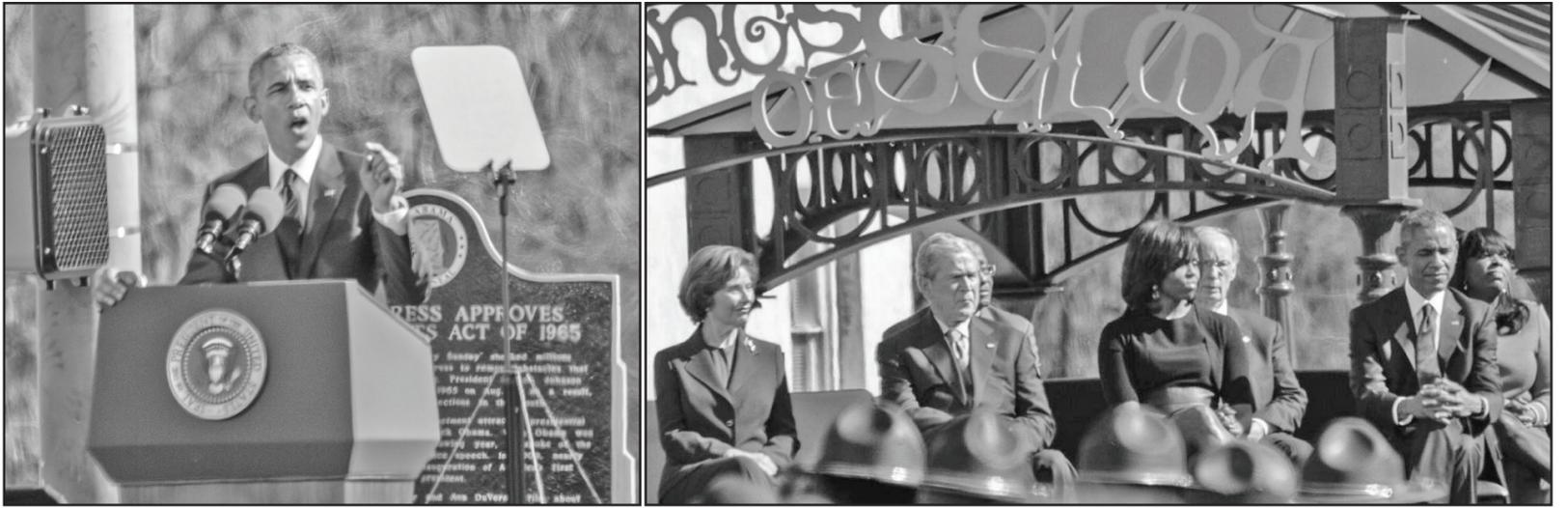
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Bloody Sunday commemorated



Pierce Godwin photos

Left photo: President Barack Obama spoke to the crowd in Selma during the 50th anniversary of the 1965 “Bloody Sunday” march. Right photo: Former first lady Laura Bush, former President George W. Bush, first lady Michelle Obama and the president at the event.

Obama visits Selma; Troy students participate in remembrance

David Caddell
Contributor

Grishma Rimal
Variety Editor

The tribute paid to the 50th anniversary of the 1965 march from Selma was a momentous event for the state of Alabama.

President Barack Obama visited the city and helped honor the work and struggles of the activists fighting for equal civil and voting rights. Many Troy University students, faculty and staff also were a part of that historic celebration.

While many visited Selma on March 7 to hear President Barack Obama speak, the Office of Student Services organized two buses to take students to Selma on March 8.

“Being it the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the bridge crossing, we wanted to be involved in the process of providing transportation for our students to experience that moment,” said Derrick Brewster, assistant dean of student services.

According to Selma police reports, an estimated 70,000 people were in the city on March 8. Forty-six Troy University

students, faculty and staff were among the crowd that filled U.S. Route 80.

Students were able to cross the iconic Edmund Pettus Bridge just as Martin Luther King Jr. and other marchers had 50 years ago, as did President Obama the day before.

The president spoke on the issue of race relations, saying that things have changed since the time when protesters were met with violence.

“It was an amazing experience being able to hear the president of the United States, especially in a state like Alabama that doesn’t often get presidential visits,” said Maranda Mitchell, a senior political science major from Jasper.

Mitchell said that she had to arrive early in the morning to stand in line, even though the president wasn’t scheduled to speak until 1:30 p.m.

“It was interesting to hear why everyone had come that day and see all of the historical buildings in Selma,” she said. “And once we were in the area to hear the speech, there was such a sense of excitement and unity amongst the crowd.”

The march across the bridge began at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, the same place it originated 50 years prior. Troy University students walked

several miles down Martin Luther King Street, onto U.S. Route 80, and over the Alabama River.

Other attendees included Selma residents, students, civil rights activists, protest groups, city officials and others who were simply taking in the moment of being surrounded by history and by thousands of people.

Several protesters, calling for police reform and less criminalization of young African-Americans, could also be seen. Several parties demanded immigration reform; others, women’s rights.

Many signs and shirts championed the common phrases associated with current racial issues, such as “Hands up, don’t shoot,” “I can’t breathe,” or “Black lives matter.”

Not all protesters marched across the bridge. Many gathered signatures on the street among the crowds and street vendors.

Many of Troy’s international students, who despite not having grown up hearing stories of racism in the American South, also eagerly participated in Selma.

Tra Vu, a freshman marketing major from Hanoi, Vietnam, said that walking through the bridge with hundreds of people was an “unforgettable memory.” She also found the trip a learning oppor-

tunity about different facets of the civil rights movement.

“I was impressed by many women in white dresses and shoes,” Vu said. “Later, I figured out that it was similar to the book ‘The Help,’ like it was their uniform when they worked as the help. So they dressed up like that to memorialize this occasion.”

For American students like Mitchell, the Selma march still holds a lot of relevance, as race issues are still relevant despite the progress made.

“I believe one of the speakers said we need to get on the bridge, cross the bridge and continue doing the work,” she said.

Despite the continuing problems, Mitchell said that she gained a sense of pride for her home state because, although Selma is a small town, it played a significant role in the progress of the civil rights movement.

Brewster said that he thought students were able to gain a lot of knowledge in terms of history and to learn what each individual needs to “put in to get to where we want to be.”

He also said that the personal experience of being in Selma with his wife and son was great for him. “And just to see that many people within that one location was pretty awesome,” he said.



Troy Office of Student Services photos

Troy University students, faculty and staff in Selma on Sunday, March 8. The office of student services organized buses to take attendees to Selma, where they participated in a march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

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Reverend preaches marriage equality

Alyse Nelson
Features Editor

At the root of a silent protest that sparked a lot of conversation, the Rev. Jeff Byrd was simply standing up for what he believed to be right.

Crosses adorn the wall of his office — not a shock when stepping into the office of a reverend.

The surprise comes when your eyes settle on the handwritten posters beside the desk. Both lettered in a rainbow of permanent marker, one reads “One Christian for

Marriage Equality” and the other, “Love is Love.”

Byrd, at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Troy for almost 10 years, proudly explains that his teenage daughter made them for him.

“This is not a religious issue, this is a civil rights issue,” he said.

In February, Byrd spent several days in front of the Pike County Courthouse holding these signs.

“I was celebrating at my church because come Monday morning more people would have the dignity that they deserve,”

Byrd said of the Sunday before same-sex marriage was legalized.

“And then Judge Roy Moore told the probate judges that they didn’t have to follow the law,” he said. “Of course I was furious, and that’s the right word.

“Angry. Indignant. Disgusted. Embarrassed. Embarrassed once again to be in the state of Alabama and to have officials that make the folks in Alabama look so backward. That’s a mean way to say it, but that’s the truth.”

Though the decision to do a silent protest was made quickly in the wake of the law’s turnover, it was not one that Byrd acted on thoughtlessly.

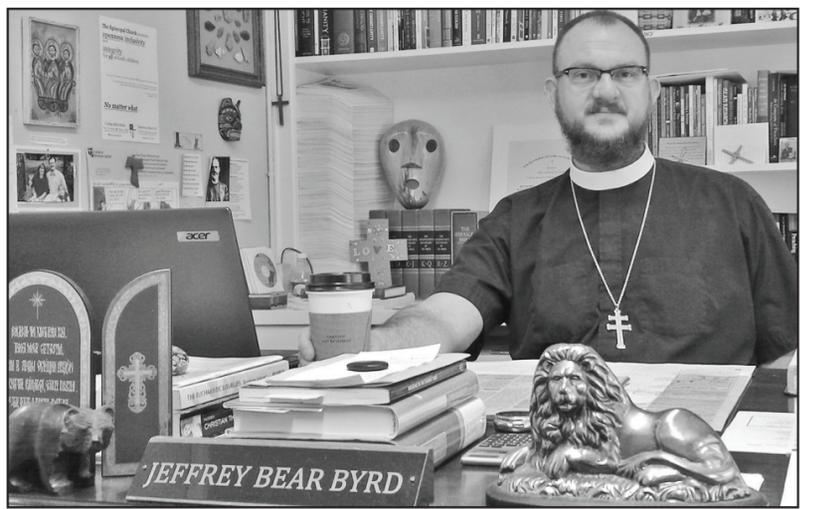
“I have a serious responsibility to reflect the values of my national church,” he said, noting the lack of local knowledge concerning the Episcopal church.

“I was afraid to go down there,” Byrd said. “But I was more afraid of what I would feel about myself if I did not go there. If I did not go there and protest injustice, to me, I would lose my moral authority.”

So, dressed in his full cleric attire, cross hanging from his neck, Byrd stood in front of the Pike County Courthouse and made his protest.

“Most of the professionals that came by showed support,” Byrd said. “And there were a few same-sex couples that came by.”

He received many



Alyse Nelson photo

The Rev. Jeff Byrd sits in his office.

“thank you’s” and thumbs-up from the lawyers filing into the courthouse for the day.

Overall, Byrd said that he was surprised by a lack of negative reactions.

“I expected way more negative,” he said. “I really expected someone to take a shot at me or tear my signs up or spit on me. Because I’m not a native Alabamian and certainly not this part, but I am old enough to remember segregation, so I expected a lot more negative reactions and hostile language. I did get some of that, but not to the degree that I thought I would.”

Byrd said that of the people who reacted negatively to the protest, many remained silent and pretended not to have seen him. Those who were vocal often had that question of how he could take that position as a

religious leader.

“And those that wanted to argue, I just thanked them for their opinion and wished them a good day,” he said.

“When you know something is wrong and you want to take a stand, you should do it because the consequences are probably not as bad as you imagine them,” Byrd said of the overall experience.

There was a 22-day period during which gay marriage was legal across Alabama, though Pike County was one of seven counties that never issued same-sex marriage licenses. After that, gay marriage has been outlawed throughout the state.

“I was furious because we no longer had somewhere to protest,” Byrd said.

“As an elected official, this is a civil issue. A

probate judge is a paper pusher, and they decided to hide behind the excuse of the religious values to deny people their civil rights.

“I’m sure that the probate judge has married atheists, those that have been divorced once or twice, but then decides to be religious? That’s ridiculous. That’s simply politician posturing for down the road.”

Though Byrd is excited in his expectation that Alabama’s continued ban will be overturned, he is disappointed in the fight that it will follow.

He said that in April, May or June, when the law is forced upon Alabama, the judges who disagreed “should all quit their jobs if they want to keep their moral integrity intact.”

For the full story, go to tropnews.com.



Alyse Nelson photo

Posters from the protest hang in Byrd’s office.

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Quidditch: not just in Hogwarts anymore

Alyse Nelson
Features Editor

Flying on brooms, chasing a flying golden ball, competing in a world cup for this magical sport — it all seems as distant as an admission letter to Hogwarts.

However, people across the world have been re-creating the wizard sport of quidditch almost since the Harry Potter series made it famous.

Kellen Crookham, a junior graphic design major from Phenix City, is the founder of quidditch at Troy.

Though the organization hasn’t yet gotten field time to practice, Crookham has been working on recruiting enough players to build a roster and be considered an intramural sport, like flag football.

“I saw some videos on YouTube one day and thought it would be cool,” she said of the decision to create the group.

Quidditch outside of the Harry Potter series began at Middlebury College in 2005. Since then, it has spread worldwide.

“It’s not just people in Troy being nerds; it’s a global movement,” Crookham said. “Harry Potter defined a generation.”

Crookham contacted the U.S. Quidditch representative for Alabama, and she was able to give Crookham some pointers. While the game has tried to remain faithful to the one played in the Harry Potter series, some changes were necessary, at least until flying brooms are invented.

In order to play, Crookham said that the teams will use PVC pipes and hula hoops to build the brooms and goals, and substitute volleyballs, dodgeballs and a tennis ball for the magical ones.

“You don’t have to be a fan of Harry Potter to play,” Crookham said.

The website for U.S. Quidditch describes it as “a co-ed contact sport with a unique mix of elements from rugby, dodgeball and tag.”

Official rules for the “Muggle” version of quidditch can be found at usquidditch.org.

Since quidditch is co-ed and contact, she wants to have both a tournament and a booster team.

“We would play FSU, USA, Auburn, Alabama — anyone within a reasonable driving distance,” she said.

Crookham said that the booster team will be “a lot safer and more fun for people that don’t want to be in tournament play.”

“I’m hoping we can have tryouts to see who would be best,” she said, adding that no one will be turned away. “You don’t have to be pigeonholed; you can try all positions. The entire team is revolving.”

Crookham said that it is still possible to get field time this semester, but that will require more players.

“It’s difficult getting started because of the nerd factor,” she said.

“I’m not expecting people to think it’s cool or anything,” she said. “You don’t do quidditch because it’s cool; you do it because you love it. If people think it’s strange, that’s their problem.”

The group meets every other Wednesday in Trojan Center 224 at 3 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 1. The group also has a Facebook page, “Troy University Quidditch Team,” that remains updated.

Crookham is hopeful that the sport will take off on campus. “To have a slice of that world here in the Muggle world is a dream come true.”



Josh Richards photo

Kayli Pledger, a sophomore collaborative education major from Spanish Fort (left), and Kellen Crookham, a junior graphic design major from Phenix City (right), sit at a table in Trojan Center to advertise the group.

Fake IDs cost students more than financial fines

Editorial Board

Herbert Reeves, dean of student services, sent a campuswide email on March 5 informing students that fake IDs will be more strictly monitored by local vendors. Recently, the use of fake IDs has become more rampant among students and has stirred business owners to be more vigilant when inspecting IDs.

The issue of fake IDs does not only pose a threat to the students using them, but also to the owners of businesses that unknowingly accept the IDs. When businesses accept these IDs as real, they put the businesses in danger and also the owners. Owners who are caught accepting fake IDs can lose business licenses, which can put the livelihood of the owners in jeopardy. Many local business owners rely solely on their establishments for day-to-day survival and cannot afford to have it all taken away.

A study performed by The National Institute of Health showed that “56 percent of youths who reported borrowing or using a fake ID also reported

weekly use of alcohol ... Based upon existing cross-sectional research, we hypothesize that fake ID ownership and heavy drinking reciprocally influence each other; heavier drinkers are more likely to obtain fake IDs, and fake IDs increase the likelihood of drinking.”

The problem is not merely one of legality but also one of health. Underaged drinkers are more likely to over-drink and succumb to alcohol poisoning or other alcohol-related illnesses. Peer pressure plays a large role in the decision to purchase fake IDs, especially among the Greek community. The NIH website noted in a 2007 study that Greeks are more likely than other college students to use a fake ID. By the end of their second year of college, 56.66 percent of Greek men and 15.59 percent of non-Greek men owned a fake ID. For women, the statistic reads that 59.02 percent of Greek women and 19.80 of non-Greek women owned a fake ID.

Greek students are normally held to a higher standard than other

students because of their leadership roles on campuses. Based on the statistics presented, the Greek community is not only choosing to endanger its members and posing a risk to the community but is also breaking the law.

When it comes to the cost and importance of college, it seems outrageous to think that students would throw away the time and

effort for a fake ID. College is expensive; we all know that. So why risk a possible fine of up to \$500 along with imprisonment and the loss of a motor vehicle license?

Along with sacrificing an education, students caught using fake IDs also run the risk of sabotaging future job opportunities. A criminal record will always

loom over your head. It is one of the first things an employer will notice and will, more often than not, cost you a job. Students attend college in order to make a prosperous future for themselves and to increase their earning potential. If a student is convicted of using a fake ID, the work done to achieve a higher education is virtually wasted.



Seth Nicholson

Year abroad opens horizons

Christine Brand
Contributor

It is a long way from my hometown, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, to Germany.

Yet, after my first semester studying abroad there, I learned that many aspects of Germany are similar to life in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin residents really like their beer and sausage, as do stereotypical Germans. But Germans are so much more than the stereotype.

Germans come across as very serious people, very intelligent and focused on the job at hand. Once you get to know them, though, many are easygoing and relaxed.

They enjoy a night out celebrating life and spending quality time with friends.

Many Germans do not like small talk, so if you talk with them, it will be a quality conversation about something important to them.

The German culture to me seems like one that tries to get the most out of life. It encourages you to spend time doing what you like and to be yourself.

My college experience in Germany was greatly different from one in America.

During the school year, there were no tests or homework assignments, which came as a surprise to me. At the end of the year, there was one large exam that counted for 100 percent of my grade.

This was overwhelming for me, but the German students were not fazed. They spend the first few months of classes completely chill. Some didn't even come to class, but just read the slides at home.

Then the last month or so is study time. Everyone gets really focused and concentrates only on studies. This type of dedication and hard work is, for me, nonexistent in America.

This represents an aspect of the German culture that I love. They work hard when they need to, get the job done well and then relax. They don't stress about minor things but instead focus on what is important.

My time in Germany hasn't just taught me about Germany, though. As an exchange student, I often spend time with other exchange students from all over the world.

I have met people from France, Turkey, Taiwan, China, Australia, Iran and many other places.

I have learned so many different things about so many different cultures.

For example, I learned that you should never give an umbrella to a Chinese person as a gift.



Christine Brand photo

Brand is participating in Troy Study Abroad program. She is taking two semesters in Germany.

You would essentially be telling the person that he will die soon.

It has been amazing to get to know people from all over the world. One time I heard five different languages spoken over lunch.

The diversity and the fact that we all came together in Germany is incredible.

It is amazing how similar two people from opposite ends of the world can be.

One of my best friends here in Germany is a French woman. We have so much in common, more than I have in common with most Americans. We think the same, have the same hobbies and interests, and are even studying the same thing in the university.

My year in Germany has truly been one of the best in my life. Though it has not come without struggles and challenges, I have learned a lot and have grown as a person.

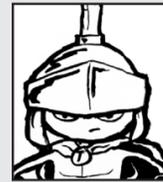
I have seen more of Europe than most people ever will. I learned to live on my own and to do things for myself. I have made many great friendships that I hope will last for years to come. I have broadened my horizons.

Christine Brand is a sophomore business major from Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Say WHAT?

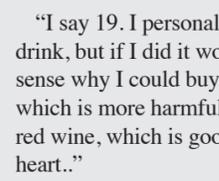
The Tropolitan asked a random sampling of students the following question:

How old should a person be to be able to purchase alcohol legally?



“I remember the Roaring Twenties. I'm just glad prohibition is over.”

— **The Tropolitan**



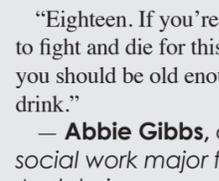
“I say 19. I personally don't drink, but if I did it wouldn't make sense why I could buy tobacco, which is more harmful, and not buy red wine, which is good for your heart.”

— **Angie Lewis**, a sophomore social work major from Troy.



“Sixteen to 18. The 21 age limit, I mean, it doesn't make any sense.”

— **Anh Nguyen**, a senior business major from Hanoi, Vietnam.



“Eighteen. If you're old enough to fight and die for this country, you should be old enough to legally drink.”

— **Abbie Gibbs**, a senior social work major from Andalusia.



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.

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Spanish films reveal culture

Lacey Alexander
Staff Writer

The Department of Modern Languages and Classics and the Troy University library will be hosting a Spanish film festival after a grant was awarded to the school.

With the aid of a grant by Pragda, a film distribution company specifically for Spanish and Latin American films, the festival will present five foreign films on separate dates throughout March and April. All of the films presented will be in the Spanish language and have free admission.

The Spanish Film Festival will be the first at Troy. The films were chosen by the four Spanish professors in the department and will portray a multitude of different cultures of multiple countries.

Johanna Méndez Alberich, assistant professor of Spanish, chose "Las Vacas Con Gafas," a Puerto Rican film, and "El Regreso," a Costa Rican film.

"I'm Puerto Rican... and Puerto Rico's part of the United States, but it does have their own cinema, their own films," Alberich said. "I chose 'El Regreso' because I wanted to tie it in with my study abroad...I take a group every summer to Costa Rica...I really wanted to show them a film out of that country."

"This will open people's eyes to other languages, other cultures," Alberich said. "There's all different themes...poverty, and social injustice, and politics... I want people to think outside of the United States."

While the films are all of the Spanish language, Alberich said that the films' content all represent a different culture.

"One's from Spain, one is from Argentina... and the last film is out of Mexico but it's about Bolivia," she said. "Each one of the films, the dialects will be completely different. But even if you don't speak Spanish, you should be able to see visually and see culturally, politically and socially the differ-

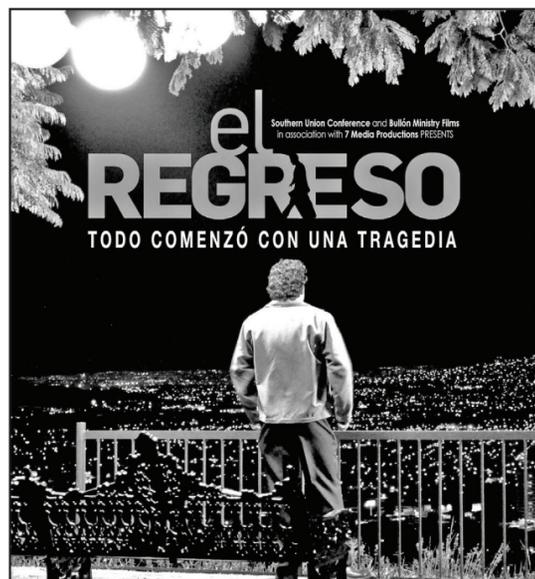
ences between countries."

The grant to present these films only went to one other college in Alabama, and will allow the films to be shown at the different Troy campuses.

Alberich also said that while she did most of the Spanish paperwork, she was approached by media librarian Lisa Vardaman about the opportunity, and that the two of them worked together to make the festival happen.

"Lisa Vardaman's done just about everything," Alberich said. "I give her a lot of credit. She has a love for the Spanish-speaking world that she wants to share as well. We're a good team."

All of the films will be shown in Patterson Hall, Room 105 at 4 p.m. "Pa Negre" was presented on March 5, and "El Regreso" will be shown on March 19, "Las Vacas con Gafas" on March 26, "Infancia Clandestina," an Argentine film, on April 2, and "Tambian la Lluvia," a Spanish film, April 9.



Hernán Jiménez photo
"El Regreso," or "The Return" in English, is a Costa Rican film about a man's return to Costa Rica from a decade abroad. "El Regreso" will be shown today at 4 p.m. in Patterson Hall 105.

Speech tournament starts 24th annual competition this year

Kianna Collins
Arts & Entertainment Editor

If students want to show off the communication skills that they've learned in their classes, they have a chance to enter the 24th annual Intramural Speech Tournament this spring.

For the tournament, students can choose from several different competition categories: informative speaking, prose, persuasive speaking, storytelling, poetry, Spanish poetry and Spanish prose.

This event is available to all students regardless of speaking experience.

Participants will benefit from entering more than one category, said Maryjo Cochran, professor of communication. The overall winner of the tournament is decided based on how many points they have in each category for placing in the top three.

Students are allowed to enter only three categories this year.

First-place winners in each category will receive a trophy, and the top three will get a certificate of merit for placing.

The overall winner of the tournament will receive a \$500 scholarship, which is titled the "Boyd-King Debate Scholarship."

In order to get this scholarship, a student must have at least a 3.0 GPA, must not be the recipient of another Troy University Foundation schol-



Maryjo Cochran photo

These are the winners of the tournament last year. On the top (from left to right) are Austin Cofield, DJ Gilroy, Noah Williams and Candace Dawson. On bottom (from left to right) are Paige McAndrews, Savanna Schacherer, Samantha Scherer and Grishma Rimal.

arship, must not be a graduating senior, must not be a previous winner of the award, and must write a thank-you letter to the donor.

"It's one more opportunity for them to work on their public speaking, particularly where there's the opportunity to compete," Cochran said.

The competition accommodates Spanish entries in the poetry, storytelling and prose categories.

"Most students that are interested have had public speaking classes," Cochran said. "They can talk to their professors to refine their speeches."

Students who are interested are encouraged to talk to faculty members of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, speech faculty or Cochran herself, Cochran

said. Students also need to look at the rules, and if they have any questions about the rules, they need to ask.

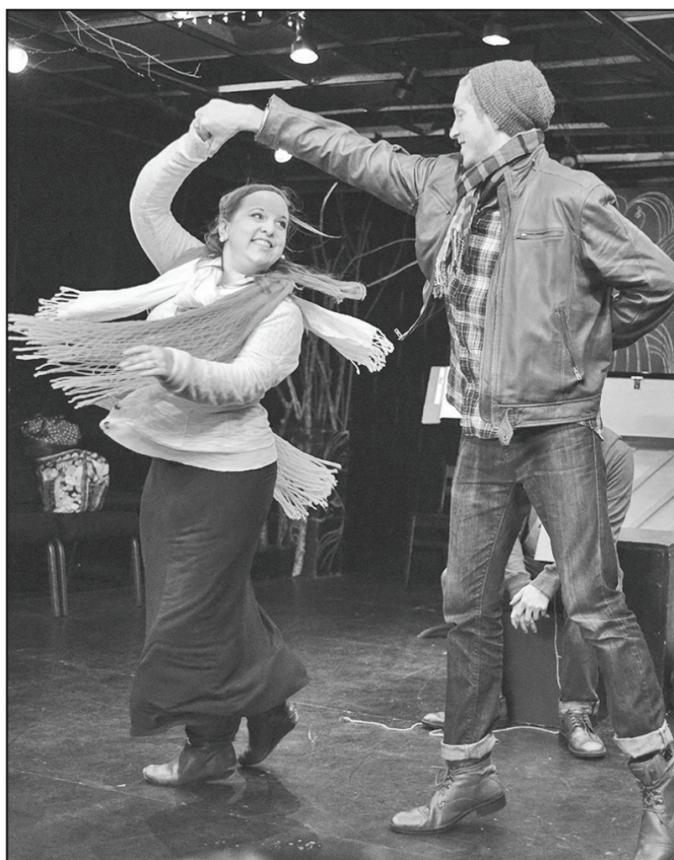
"It's a really fun event; It's fun to go with peers and friends and watch each other compete," Cochran said. "And it's a good thing to put on a resume."

The tournament will be held on Thursday, April 9, in the Trojan Center. The event starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m.

The deadline to submit applications is Friday, April 3, and they need to be given to Kate Rowinsky in Wallace Hall 103.

If there are any questions, Cochran is located in Wallace Hall 119, and her email is macochran@troy.edu.

'Into the Woods' starts this weekend



April Irvin photo

Kaitlin Conway (left), a senior theater major from Prattville, and DJ Gilroy (right), a junior theater major from Enterprise, dance together as the Baker's Wife and the Baker. The Troy Theatre and Dance Department will soon be presenting its fourth full-length production of the year. The student cast of Troy University's production of "Into the Woods," a musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, will be performing this in the Blackbox Theater upstairs in 204 Malone Hall. The show will be performed this weekend, starting this Thursday night and ending Saturday night, with performances starting at 7:30 p.m. All performances are free, and tickets are not necessary for entry.

<p>Continental Cinemas Student Discount with ID Tickets Available @ kiosk In The Trojan Center & Theatre</p> <p>3/20-26</p> <p>Run All Night Liam Neeson 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40</p> <p>SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D 1:10, 3D 4:10 3D 7:10, 9:30</p> <p>Cinderella 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:30</p>	<p>Insurgent Opens Thu. March 19 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:35</p> <p>Unfinished Business Best Business Trip Ever March 6 12:50, 3:05, 6:50, 9:35</p> <p>Focus Will Smith Never Trust A Thief February 27 12:50, 3:05, 6:50, 9:35</p>
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The **Tropolitan staff** meets every Thursday night in room 107 of Wallace Hall at 6 p.m.

All students are welcome!

How do I become a Tropper?

We're glad you asked. Let us begin by saying not everyone is cut out from the same sterling Tropolitan mold. If you think you are, though, we want you on our team. Also, we have candy.



Editor's note: If any student has questions he or she would like for our staff to tackle, feel free to email variety@tropnews.com with "Dear Trop" in the subject line. All students who send in questions will remain anonymous.

Dear Trop,

Dear Trop,

What's the best way to break up with someone? I have half a mind of writing down my name with this question so that my boyfriend can read this, so I wouldn't have to face him myself. As you can guess, I'm not big on confrontations. So, how do I tell my boyfriend that I am not ready for the kind of commitment he is looking for? I am running out of excuses to avoid him.

— Mhysa

Dear Mhysa,

Letting someone else do this unpleasant task would not only be cowardly, but very disrespectful. This is all on you. If you have been avoiding him these days, perhaps he has already sensed that something may be up. Avoiding him longer would only worsen things. Just tell him how you have been feeling. If you are able to clearly and properly articulate your feelings, it can be a very amiable ending and not a rough one. If it's only the commitment issue that worries you, speak to him. He may be able to respect your perspective and change his own. You won't know until you talk to him. Ending a relationship is tough, and there is no good way of doing it. But, any way that does not involve having a proper conversation will be the wrong way.

Good Luck,
Trop

Dear Trop,

I have been struggling with my faith as of late. I grew up in a very conservative household with deeply religious

parents. Since I can remember, I have been told to live by the Bible and the words of God. Lately, I have begun to question whether what I have been told is in fact the reality or if I've been blindsided all this time. I don't know what brought this about, but my belief has been shaken, and I no longer trust in the divine power that I always believed in. I feel at odds with my family and friends, and my very understanding of life. How do I regain my conviction or learn to live without it?

— Faithless

Dear Faithless,

You are going through something that many people go through. Questioning the status quo is human nature. It shows that you are inquisitive and rational. No one should follow anything based solely on the fact that he was raised that way or told to do so. It is most beneficial when we inquire things for ourselves, understand every aspect of it and then decide what path we want to follow. You should do your homework. Take the time to truly comprehend the meaning of the things you were told. Do some research, and find out the validity of the sermons you were taught. Compare your religious education to other religious and nonreligious ways of life. Gain some perspective. Assess what makes you happy and what you are most comfortable with. This is a gradual process; it will take time. In the meantime, uphold your morals and stay compassionate. Keep the faith in humanity alive.

Cheers,
Trop

Sudoku

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

Directions:
A Sudoku puzzle is a grid of 9x9 squares or cells that has been subdivided into nine subgrids of 3x3 cells. The objective is to enter a digit from one to nine in each cell so that each row or column contains each digit exactly once and each subgrid contains each digit exactly once.



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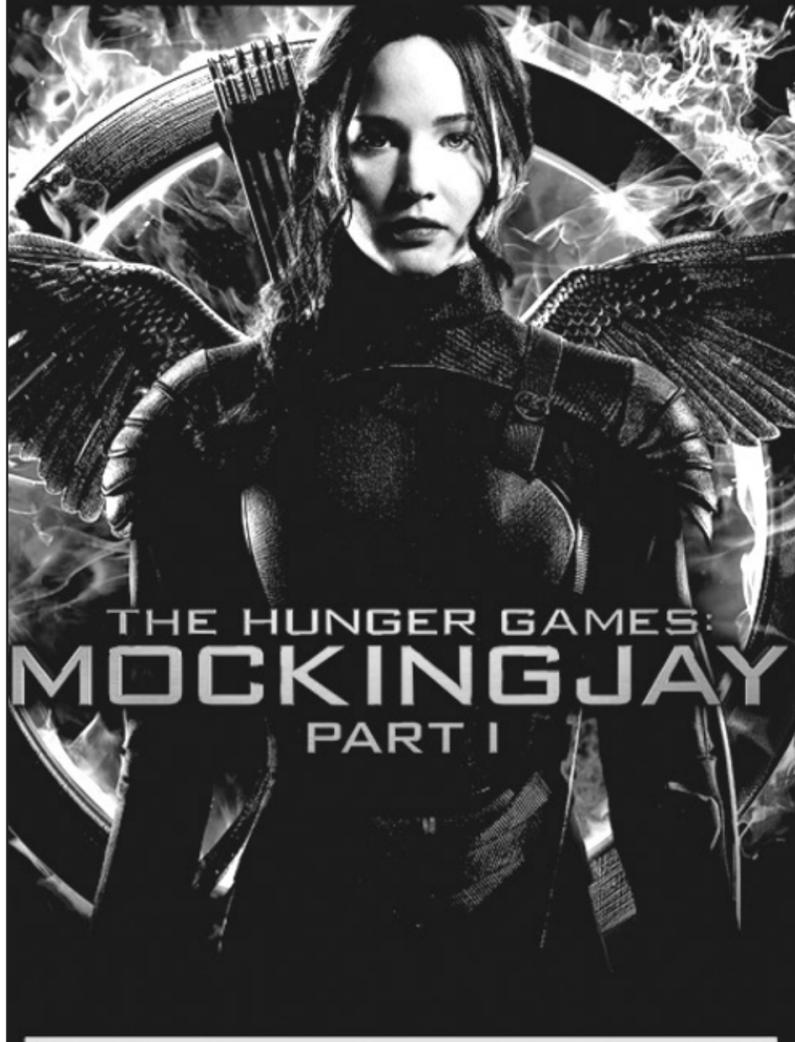
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Golf team sets new school records

Jill Odom
Sports Editor

The men's and women's golf teams competed in different states this past weekend as the men's team traveled to Tallahassee, Florida, and took 12th place in the Seminole Intercollegiate.

The women's team finished fifth at the 3M Jaguar Intercollegiate in Augusta, Georgia.

On Friday, March 13, the women's golf team sat in the sixth place after shooting a 304 for the opening round. Kennesaw State led the first round shooting 296.

Senior Sydney Conrad led the Trojans and tied for seventh place with a 76.

Sophomores Becca Horner and Fatima Fernandez Cano tied for 16th place and they both picked up a birdie along the way.

On Saturday, March 14, Cano set a new school record by shooting six under 65 and helped Troy advance to fourth place for the second round.

Troy's round of 284 for the second round set a new school record as well.

Kennesaw State was edged out by No. 43 Coastal Carolina, which took the lead by shooting a 281.

Cano tied for third place while teammate Conrad dropped back and tied for 11th. Senior Taylor McGraw advanced and tied for 20th after tying for 39th during the opening round.

Cano and Conrad led the Trojans during the final round by both shooting a 73 on Sunday, March 15. Cano tied for fifth, while Conrad placed 12th.

On the final day of the Intercollegiate, Troy

finished in fifth place out of 13 competitor schools.

Coastal Carolina took the title, just six strokes ahead of Kennesaw State.

The men's golf team also put up a fight at the Seminole Intercollegiate.

Troy was just one over par during the opening round on Friday, March 13, with a 289.

The Trojans tied for 11th for the first day, out of a field of 17. East Tennessee State held the lead after shooting a 276.

Senior Jake Tucker led his teammates and tied for sixth with a 69. The team picked up a handful of birdies, but also had some bogeys, which caused the rest to finish outside the top 10.

During the second round on Saturday, March 14, the Trojans shot another 289, pushing them back to 12th.

Sophomore Jared Bettcher advanced from 35th and tied for 27th with Tucker.

Troy wrapped up the Intercollegiate in 12th place on Sunday, March 15. No. 1 Florida State was able to beat out East Tennessee State, which had the lead for the first two rounds.

Sophomore Clayton Vannoy, who started out tied for 20th, then dropped down to 39th on the second day, finished the final round tied for 18th.

He had six birdies on the last day and led the Trojans. Tucker finished tied for 28th.

The men's team will return to the green on March 27-29 for the Furman Intercollegiate in Greenville, South Carolina.

The women's team's next time at the course is March 29-31 at the John Kirk Lady Panther Classic in Atlanta, Georgia.



Caleb Hicks photo

Sophomore Clayton Vannoy led the Trojans in the Seminole Intercollegiate and tied for 18th on Sunday, March 15.

Softball

continued from page 9

in the sixth inning with an RBI from senior second baseman Cynthia Gomez.

However, the Trojans responded with six runs in the bottom of the same inning, led by redshirt freshman pinch runner Allison Moore, who scored on a wild pitch.

A scoreless seventh inning from the Mountaineers allowed the Trojans to snap a four-game losing streak with a 9-3 victory. The win was first-year head coach Beth Mullins' first conference win with Troy.

The Trojans didn't miss a beat as they continued their offensive success from earlier in the day into the second game of their double-header.

Appalachian State went up 1-0 after the first inning with a run scored by Gomez, but again, the Trojans responded in a big way by scoring nine unanswered runs to take the win in five innings.

Sophomore second baseman Becca Hartley extended her on-base streak to 27 games with an RBI double in the third inning to bring in junior right fielder Amanda Winters.

Hartley scored three runs to lead the Trojans, as they took care of business in five innings and finished with a walk-off in the sixth inning.

"I thought we played well," Mullins said. "We did a good job of putting the ball on the ground and making them make mistakes. Hannah Day did a phenomenal job today. I thought the top of our lineup in general did a great job of

getting on and scoring."

Troy looked to take the series sweep the following day, and was able to control the game from the start on Sunday, March 15. Day continued to lead the Trojans offensively with five RBIs and a home run, going three for four at bat.

Day's two-run homer in the first inning got the Trojans going early on, and they never looked back.

Junior Mountaineer center fielder Pepper Butler hit an RBI single in the top of the second inning to bring the score to 2-1.

Troy responded with four runs in the bottom of the second inning to go up 6-1. Appalachian State struggled to find an answer to Troy's hitting.

As a team, the Trojans racked up 10 hits on 23 at bats, versus five hits on 20 at bats for the opposition.

Troy scored three and two runs in the third and fourth innings, respectively, dominating both offensively and defensively by not giving up hits.

Appalachian State added a late run in the top of the fifth, but it wasn't enough to overcome the large lead the Trojans had built up.

Junior pitcher Sara Mock (3-6) got the win for the Trojans, allowing one run on just four hits. After losing its first three conference games, Troy is still looking to make a conference title run under Mullin's guidance.

Troy will now travel to Tallahassee, Florida, to play Florida State on Wednesday, March 18. First pitch is set for 5 p.m.

Track and field team finishes strong at meet

Jill Odom
Sports Editor

The Troy track and field team traveled to Conway, South Carolina, for the Coach "O" Coastal Carolina University Invitational and came away with strong finishes.

Even though there was a 42-team field, the Trojans were not daunted. On Friday, March 13, junior Lacey Marcus won the women's 100-meter hurdles in 15.44 seconds.

Freshman Elizabeth Locklier had a 3.20-meter pole vault, making it her best outdoor finish and earned her fourth place.

Senior Alexis Cobbs and sophomore Aleeah Stigarll both advanced to the final round in the women's long jump, setting new personal records.

Cobbs had a 5.68-meter jump and took home third place and her teammate

Stigarll came in sixth place after making a 5.60-meter jump.

Troy had two different groups compete in the women's 4x200-meter relay team. Senior Paige McMillan, junior Cameia Alexander, freshman Sydney Wright and Cobbs made up the team that finished third with a time of 1:40.81.

The other team, composed of Stigarll, Locklier, and sophomores Dallas Worthy and Sierra King, crossed the finish line at 1:44.10, earning seventh place.

Senior Douglas Dyer competed in three different events. He finished second in the men's 110-meter hurdle and he also placed sixth in the men's long jump.

After winning the 100-meter dash at the Jaguar Opener on Saturday, March 7, Wright took home another win for

the Trojans on Saturday, March 14.

She took home first place in the 200-meter dash and set a new record with 24.76 seconds. Wright finished third in the 100-meter dash at 11.95 seconds.

Freshman Corina Cox took second place after competing in the discus event and threw for 47.42-meters. Sophomore Nisha Defoe made a 5.25m mark in the long jump, earning her third.

Many other Trojans on the women's side set new personal records.

Sophomore Cameron Rice place 10th in the men's 400-meter dash, while Dyer and senior Sam Johnson made top-10 finishes in the field events.

The next meet Troy will travel to is the Alabama Relays on March 19-21, in Tuscaloosa.

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Troy's road to redemption

Women's basketball team will play in its second postseason game

Wally Pendergrass
Staff Writer

The Trojan women's basketball team earned a second chance and will play against Mercer in Macon, Georgia, Thursday, March 19, in its second ever postseason game in school history.

The Trojans are the No. 5 seed in the East Bracket of the Women's Basketball Invitational, which is a 16-team tournament for teams who were not selected for the NCAA Tournament.

The Trojans go into the tournament having won eight of their last nine games and lead the Sun Belt Conference in scoring at 76.4 points per game, which is also 13th in the NCAA.

The Trojans achieved only the fourth 20-win season in school history this year, ending with a 20-10 record.

The Trojans' defense averages 12.1 steals per game, which is first in the Sun Belt and third in the NCAA. The Trojans are also fourth in the NCAA with 22.6 opponent turnovers per game.

Two Trojans also received individual awards for their 2014-2015 season efforts.

Senior forward Ronita Garrett and junior guard Ashley Beverly-Kelley were named to be on the All-Sun Belt Conference first team.

Garrett led the Sun Belt in double-doubles with 21 this season, which is also

seventh in the NCAA.

Garrett holds three school Division I records in single-season rebounds, double-doubles, and single-game rebounds.

Beverly-Kelley was also named to the Mid-Major All-America third team by CollegeSportsMadness.com.

Beverly-Kelley is second in the Sun Belt in scoring at 17.7 points per game. She has scored 20 or more points in eight of the last 12 games.

She has 1,302 career points, the 11th most in school history and fifth most in Troy's Division I history.

The Trojans' berth and honors are bitter-sweet after a tough loss in the Sun Belt Tournament quarterfinals to UL Lafayette 66-52, Troy's worst scoring performance of the season.

Garrett scored six points and had eight rebounds, the first time in seven games that she didn't achieve a double-double.

Beverly-Kelley led the Trojans with 17 points in the game, but the Trojans overall shot only 34.8 percent from the field, the fifth worst percentage of the season. Troy also had its worst free-throw shooting percentage of the season at 16.7 percent.

The Trojans hope to get back into form on Thursday against Mercer, an opponent whom Troy has faced several times in recent years, and has an overall 10-14 record against.

If the Trojans defeat Mercer, then



Joshua Thurston photo

Junior guard Ashley Beverly-Kelley (No. 4) was named to the All-Sun Belt Conference first team and named to the Mid-Major All-American third team.

Troy would face the winner of Northern Kentucky and Marshall either Saturday, March 20 or Sunday, March 21.

For students wishing to attend the Mercer game in Macon, Georgia, Troy Athletics and the Troy University SGA are offering a free bus ride to the game.

The trip includes a free ticket to the

game, a free T-shirt and pom-poms. Head coach Chanda Rigby will also provide pizza and drinks after the game for fans.

Those interesting in traveling have until 11 a.m. on Thursday to sign up in Trojan Center Room 215. The bus will depart from Trojan Arena at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 19.

Trojan tennis teams earn away wins

Ty Ammons
Staff Writer

The Troy men's and women's tennis teams both won their matches this past week.

The men's team got wins against Kennesaw State and Alabama State, 4-2 and 4-0, respectively.

Meanwhile, the women's team won 4-1 against Mercer.

The women's team traveled to Fort Walton Beach, Florida, on Tuesday, March 10, to face Mercer.

The Trojans won three singles matches and two doubles matches.

Junior Trang Huynh won her match against freshman Xandra Fougner 6-1, 6-0.

Freshman Sanae Ohta won her match 6-2, 6-3 against freshman Grace Korta, and freshman Jiayuan Xue won against sophomore Haley Powell 6-0, 6-0.

Two of the other three singles matches were unfinished and freshman Linnea Skymberg was forced to retire.

Huynh and junior Anja Cosovic won line one doubles against Korta and junior Roxy Bartz 8-2, and Xue and Skymberg won 8-2 against Powell and Fougner.

The men traveled to Montgomery to face Kennesaw State first on Sunday, March 15. The team won four singles matches.



Caleb Hicks photo

Freshman Andy Lau won his singles match against Kennesaw State and his doubles match against Alabama State on Sunday, March 15.

Sophomore Pablo Moreno won his match 6-4, 6-2 against freshman Alejandro Valencia. Freshman Andy Lau won his match against freshman Manuel Castellanos 6-4, 5-7, 6-0.

Junior Giovanni Samaha won 6-3, 6-2 against sophomore Jake Bouchillon, and junior Daniel Bustamante defeated sophomore David Durham 6-4, 6-4.

Later on in the day, Troy won against Alabama State. The men won three singles matches, and won two doubles matches.

Moreno won his match against junior Ronald Mataba 6-2, 6-1. Bustamante won his match 6-1, 6-0 against senior Stefan Vojnic.

Freshman Calum McKinlay won his match against junior Jarred Thompson 6-1, 6-1.

Lau and sophomore Hassan Ndayishimye won line one doubles 6-0 against freshman Patrik Cvik and sophomore Digvijay Naruka.

Moreno and Samaha won their match against sophomore Takura Mlambo and freshman Karlo Skvorc.

The men's tennis team's next matchup is at the Trojan Invitational Shootout, which starts on Friday, March 20. The invitational ends on Sunday, March 22.

The women's team's next matchup is against Georgia Southern in Mobile on Saturday, March 21. The Trojans will also play South Alabama in Mobile on Sunday, March 22.

NOTICE

Student publications leadership positions

The Hall School of Journalism and Communication and the Troy University Student Publications Board are accepting applications for top jobs on the student newspaper and yearbook:

Tropolitan

Editor • Business manager

Palladium

Editor • Business manager

To apply, you must be a full-time student who plans to enroll for the fall semester of 2015 and the spring semester of 2016. Minimum GPA is 2.5. These jobs require skills in leadership, communication and motivation.

Deadline to apply:

March 26, 2015

More details and application forms are available at

Hall School of Journalism and Communication

103 Wallace Hall, 334-670-3328

Softball gains series sweep

Michael Shipma
Staff Writer

The Troy softball team swept Appalachian State during its home series, with two wins on Saturday, March 14, and another on Sunday, March 15.

After losing four straight, the Trojans (16-12, 3-3 Sun Belt) are now back on track with a three-game win streak.

After struggling with scoring runs in the past few games, Troy was able to get back on track offensively as it scored 29 runs in three games against the Mountaineers (8-13, 0-6 Sun Belt).

Day one of the series included a double-header for the Trojans, and they met with success early on.

After swapping runs in the first inning, sophomore Mountaineer shortstop Cara Parker hit a solo home run at the top of the second to go up 2-1.

Junior designated player Hannah Day gave Troy its first lead in the bottom of the second inning with a single that brought two runners home, aided by an infield error by Appalachian State.

Up 3-2 after three innings, Troy struggled to score again, but was able to keep Appalachian State from scoring as it tried to extend its lead.

The Mountaineers tied things up



Caitlin Collins photo

Junior pinch runner Leah Brundidge scored in the fourth inning, one of the many Trojans who crossed the plate on Sunday, March 15, when Troy won 11-2.

See **Softball**, page 8

Troy punishes the Panthers

Wes Fortson
Staff Writer

The Trojan baseball team (9-11, 2-4 Sun Belt) returned to Riddle-Pace Field this past weekend to battle the Georgia Southern Panthers (12-9, 4-2 Sun Belt) and won the series 2-1.

The Panthers have been a successful team this year, as they have swept the Georgia Bulldogs and have taken a series away from the West Virginia Mountaineers.

The series win for the Trojans was a much-needed boost after a nine-game losing streak.

On Friday, March 13, the game was postponed to Saturday afternoon due to hazardous weather conditions.

In the opening game of the series on Saturday, March 14, there was little production from the Troy offense or from the bullpen, as the Trojans were trampled in a 15-1 loss.

In the first inning, the Trojans got on the scoreboard when senior first baseman Trevin Hall hit an infield single to score senior center fielder Clay Holcomb. Hall was later caught stealing to end the inning.

Unfortunately for Troy, that was the only run it scored in game one of the series.

In the next inning, the Panthers' offense came alive.

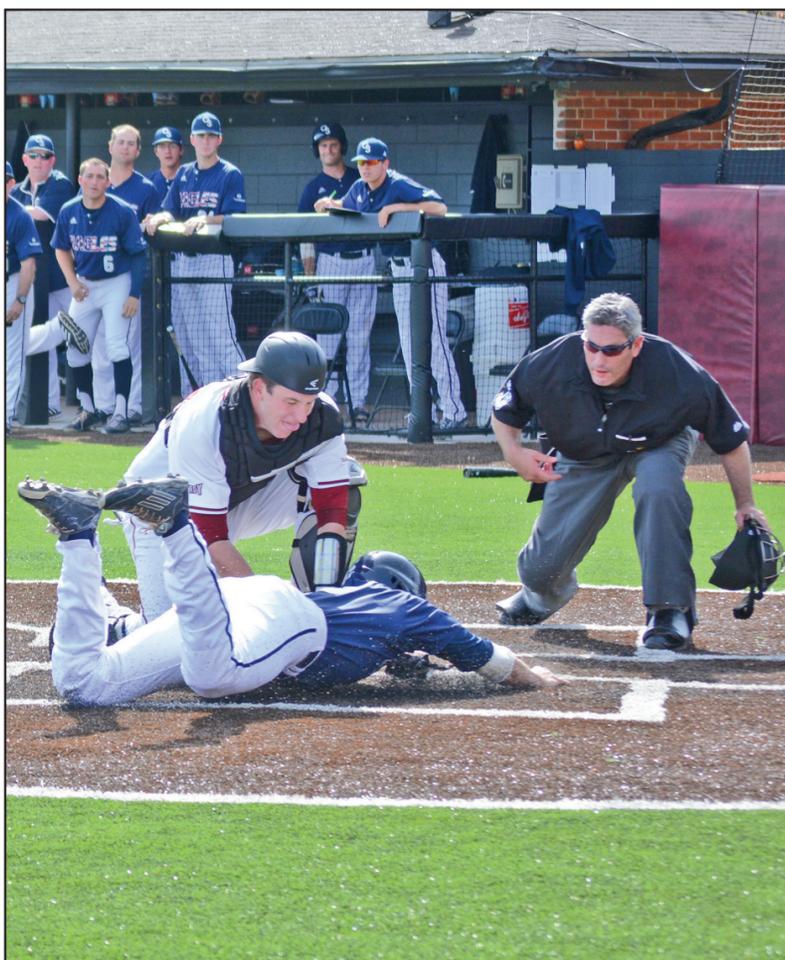
Georgia Southern scored multiple runs in every inning after the first, except in the eighth when freshman pitcher Perez Knowles held the Panthers to first base.

The Panthers racked up 20 hits and 15 runs in game one of the series to the Trojans' three hits and one run.

However, game two was a completely different story for Troy and junior pitcher Grant Bennett.

Bennett led the Trojans into the game as he struck out the side in just 15 pitches.

Troy's offense followed suit by once again leading off the scoring in game two, with some help from freshman left fielder Reid Long and junior right fielder Logan Hill to bring the score to 2-0.



Caitlin Collins photo

Redshirt junior catcher Tripp Calhoun tagged out Panthers junior pinch runner Cody Lanford for the final out in ninth inning and prevented him from scoring on Sunday, March 15. The Trojans won the game 2-1.

In the top of the second, Bennett retired the side in just 12 pitches and two strikeouts.

The junior pitcher carried the team on his shoulders as he pitched a perfect game through the seventh inning and finished the game with 14 strikeouts and allowed only one run on four hits.

"It was going to take a very courageous effort by someone to get this thing turned around, and we got that from Grant," said head coach Bobby Pierce. "Not only did

he pitch well and carry a perfect game into the seventh, but well before any of that was played out, he took the mound with the right mindset of 'I'm gonna get this done. Right here. Right now.'"

Bennett was also cushioned by a Trojan offense that was given some life by senior designated hitter Jo-El Bennett. Bennett hit a solo homer to left field in the fourth inning, his first of the season.

Bennett also scored Long in the fifth when he beat out a double play to first and reached on a fielder's choice,

bringing the score to 4-0.

Hill scored two more runners during the seventh inning with a single to center field.

The Panthers didn't score their first and only run until the ninth inning of Grant Bennett's complete game 6-1 victory.

On Sunday, March 15, both offenses on both sides struggled to bring any runners around to home in a 2-1 win for Troy.

The first four innings were scoreless until Hill singled through to left field, scoring freshman catcher Brody Binder in the bottom of the fifth.

One batter later, Hall reached on a fielder's choice as the Panther's freshman second baseman Jordan Howard overthrew the first baseman, which allowed Long to score the go-ahead run and bring the score to 2-0.

A couple of innings later, Georgia Southern was given some hope by senior right fielder Aaron Mizell when he hit a solo home run in the top of the seventh to bring the Panthers within one.

Fortunately for Troy, senior pitcher Jeremy McGowan came in for the save and fought his way out of trouble through the eighth and the ninth innings.

He found help from Holcomb, freshman shortstop Matt Sanders and redshirt junior catcher Tripp Calhoun in a game-saving play, as Calhoun tagged out junior pinch runner Cody Lanford at home plate for the final out.

The final score of game three was a close 2-1, and the win was credited to junior pitcher Lucas Brown in his first career start for Troy.

"He (Brown) was a candidate to start game three, and we chose to go that route because he's had such a hot hand and we needed to continue the momentum off of Grant's game, and Lucas did just that," Pierce said. "He pitched great, and at a time when we really needed to make a defensive play to save the game we did."

Troy will be back in action at Riddle-Pace Field against the UALR Trojans in a conference series on Friday, March 20, at 6 p.m.

Court-Approved Supplemental Information About The Deepwater Horizon Economic Settlement Claim Deadline



June 8, 2015 – Deadline to File

Claim(s) with the Deepwater Horizon (BP) Economic Settlement Program

The Class Settlement and its objective, financial data based causation tests have been approved by final judgment.

If you reside or have a business in the map above, you have the right to file a claim.

If you submit a claim form and all required information and meet the formulas as approved by the Courts, you qualify for an award.

Not every claim filed will be eligible, but you have the right to file and find out.

The June 8, 2015 Deadline will NOT be extended

To file your claim go to:
www.deepwaterhorizoneconomicsettlement.com
Or Call (866) 992-6174

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