

## What's Inside:

Retiring professors look back at time at Troy. **Variety, pg. 8**

NEEDTOBREATHE performs for Troy students Friday. **Features, pg. 3**



# TROPICAN

Troy University's Official Student Paper

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## Seesaw-for-a-cure



Cassie Gibbs photos

(Top) Logan Blake, a sophomore graphic design major from Dothan, and a brother of Tau Kappa Epsilon, plays a version of Angry Birds on the social quad on Tuesday, April 21. The fraternity held games during the group's philanthropic event. (Bottom: left to right) New Show Lee, a junior accounting major from Abbeville; Blake; and Tepper Middleton, a junior geomatics major from Potter Station, all brothers of TKE, ride the seesaw during the 48-hour event.

## Nonprofit helps prep for costs of college

Josh Richards  
Staff Writer

University students and their parents may soon have help with the cost of higher education.

A new nonprofit organization, Americans for Affordable College Costs, aims to educate university students and their parents on how to financially prepare for or reduce the cost of attending college.

According to The Wall Street Journal, in 2014 the average graduate was \$33,000 in student loan debt, making it the most indebted class ever.

AACC's website stated that the organization can assist with such things as learning how to budget, understanding student loans, and eliminating some of the common mistakes many college students make.

James A. Boyle, executive director of the AACC, said in a press release that the AACC "will be an important new information source and voice for parents and students" and will "fight for their rights on key issues."

Some of the key issues include making the tuition tax deduction permanent and lobbying against education budget cuts from the government.

According to the organization's website, AACC provides information that is "prepared by experts in higher education, consumer rights and personal finance."

The information is presented "through (their) website and through newsletters, blogs, seminars, videos, webcasts, telephone town hall meetings, news releases to local and national media and by informing local, state and national government leaders about policies and opportunities to reduce the skyrocketing costs of college."

Dillon Davis, a senior math education major from Jack, said that an organization like AACC would be a great benefit to Troy University students.

"Things like student loans and education expenses are major stresses for a lot of students," Davis said. "Anybody willing to help with those things would obviously be doing a service."

Will Harwood, the media contact for AACC, was unavailable for comment.

## Fraternity raises money for children's hospital

Cassie Gibbs  
News Editor

Tau Kappa Epsilon held its pledge class event focused on raising money for the fraternity's philanthropy, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Alpha pledge Brady Hickman, a sophomore biomedical sciences major from Mobile, was the creator of the event activities.

"All the events, the money, it's for the children," Hickman said.

A 48-hour Seesaw-for-a-Cure event held on the social quad was the main

event for the fundraiser. Anyone interested could give a donation to ride the seesaw.

The seesaw event started at Monday, April 20, at midnight and ended at midnight on Wednesday, April 22.

"The idea (for a seesaw event) came from kids playing," Hickman said. "Kids play on seesaws, so we chose that."

Sororities also competed in a penny war. The sorority that raised the most money received a portion of the money to go to its philanthropy.

The fraternity also held different games on the quad, including a football

toss, a tic-tac-toe game, cornhole, horseshoes and Angry Birds. To play any of the games, a donation over \$1 was required.

The fraternity is also raising money by selling swords, which will be taken to Memphis, Tennessee, the hometown of St. Jude's hospital.

Small swords are \$1, and larger swords are \$5. The sale will go on until the end of the school year.

The group will also be hosting a kickball tournament on Tuesday, April 28, at the field beside Trojan Arena.

## Faculty member achieves goal of center certification

Priyanka Sharma  
Staff Writer

Troy University's tutoring program was certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

Elaine Clark Bassett, coordinator of Writing Center/Instructional Support Services, said having the writing center and its tutors certified has been a goal since the beginning of her career at Troy.

"I have been with the Writing Center for 22 years now, and this is something that I have wanted to do since I first began in the Writing Center," Bassett said. "As there is no accrediting source for the Writing Center as a whole, I thought certifying the program would be the next best thing. This way we will have certified tutors who work for us."

The certification will last from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016, and the complete certification process was about six months long.

Bassett began the process by doing a self-study of the writing center. She examined the selection and evaluation process of tutors, checked what kind of assistance the writing center provided to students and studied the training process of the tutors.

The study was about 100 pages and had a number of supporting documents giving evidence to what the writing center does for the university.

The documents were then submitted to CRLA, and the group's committee decided to provide the first-level certification to the writing center's tutoring program.

See **Tutor**, page 2



Caleb Hicks photo

Naomi Perez (left), a senior English major from Enterprise, tutors Rae Leach, a sophomore exercise science major from Gadsden, in the Writing Center.

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## Confucius Institute receives grant for teaching Chinese

Lilly Casolaro  
Staff Writer

The National Security Agency is funding a \$120,000 federal grant for the training of 12 teachers and 24 high school students from Alabama and other parts of the Southeast to learn Chinese.

STARTALK was launched as a new component in the program of the National Security Language Initiative.

STARTALK'S mission is to increase the number of Americans learning, speaking and teaching critical-need foreign languages by offering high school students and language teachers creative and engaging summer experiences that strive to exemplify the best practices in language education and in language teacher development, according to the Troy STARTALK website.

For the fifth year, STARTALK's Student Chinese

Language Summer Program and Chinese Teacher Training Program will be hosted at Troy University on June 28-July 12.

Tingting Xiong, Chinese language program coordinator and STARTALK student program coordinator, said a benefit of the STARTALK program is the relationships that are built from the program.

"Two students are paired with one teacher, and they collaborate on projects, and students are given the opportunity to practice Chinese during the sessions," Xiong said.

"Students who attend the camp love it very much. They meet many people from all across the United States and create lifelong friends."

According to Troy-STARTALK teacher program website: "This training program is designed to solve the problem of a shortage of qualified and professional trained Chinese language teachers in Alabama

and surrounding areas."

Iris Hong Xu, director of the Confucius Institute, said this is a unique program that provides cultural opportunities for participants.

"Students who complete the program have the opportunity to participate in study abroad programs in China through the Confucius Institute at Troy University. In this unique program as an addition to the language studies, students will be exposed to Chinese culture and language through learning Chinese Kung Fu and Dragon dance, making Chinese-related arts and crafts, playing traditional games, cooking, and calligraphy."

The Troy STARTALK application deadline to apply for students and for teachers is April 30. The application deposit for teachers is \$100; the fee for students is \$50.

For application, guidelines and further information, visit [www.troy.edu/startalk](http://www.troy.edu/startalk).



Cassie Gibbs photo

**Will Corley, a senior communication major from Greenville, uses the interactive computer in the Confucius Institute to learn Chinese culture and history. The Confucius Institute recently received a \$120,000 grant from the National Security Agency to teach Chinese to high school students around Alabama and train teachers in the language.**

## Downtown Troy home to annual arts festival

Destiny Hosmer  
Staff Writer

The 12th annual TroyFest arts and craft festival will be held in downtown Troy this weekend.

The festival is held in honor of Jean Thompson Lake, an artist born in Troy in 1929.

Lake started painting as a child, and her works were shown throughout the southeast, winning several awards.

After Lake's death in 1976, her friends created a two-day art show in her honor by combining local art shows.

The first Jean Lake Memorial Art Show was held in 1982 at the grounds of the Pike Pioneer Museum.

The festival moved to downtown Troy in 2003 and took on the name TroyFest.

TroyFest was named an "Official Year of Alabama Art Event" in 2006 as well as

a "Top 10 Event by the Alabama Bureau of Travel and Tourism."

"I've been to TroyFest a few times," Blake Johnson, a senior social science major from Odenville, said. "I've always had a great time, and it is really the only thing Troy ever does."

TroyFest is free and open to the public and draws thousands of visitors annually.

There will be food, entertainment, various activities, and art for people of all ages.

"I haven't been yet, but I plan on going this year," Daryl Bouchelion, a junior criminal justice major from Birmingham said. "The diversity and art really interest me."

The festival will be held downtown at the square and will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 26.

## Tutor

continued from page 1

"They (CRLA) decided we do have a good program," Bassett said. "They gave us good results, comments and certified us. They have very high standards of selection and performance, and what we do here has been recognized by an important body as being one that's effective."

Bassett said that the Writing Center will go through the process again next year to recertify.

"As we already meet the qualifications for mid-level, next year we will apply for a higher level of certification," Bassett said.

The tutors of the Writing Center are also certified by CRLA.

"They (the tutors) are smart," Bassett said. "They work well with other people. They are very well-educated in techniques of tutoring, and they are just an exceptional group. Having them certified just reinforces how good they are."

Christina Wood, an English graduate student from Wicksburg, who has been working as a tutor in the center, said that helping students was a rewarding job, and she was glad to be certified as a tutor.

"It feels really good when students come in, and you are able to help

them in their problem areas fix the errors they came in with," Wood said. "It feels good to teach people how to become better writers, and being certified as tutors helps us become more credible."

Bassett said that the certification will further show the capabilities of the tutors.

"While it does not change anything we do here, it really ensures the rest of the university and students that the tutors here know what they are doing," Bassett said. "So this certification proves that we are doing the best we can do for the students, and it's nice that someone else recognizes it."

## Activities keep students busy at end of school year



April Irvin photos

(Top) The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. takes part in Troy's yard show behind the Trojan Center on Monday, April 20. The show was part of Alpha Week 2015, hosted by AKA and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Bottom) Cheryl Hyde, a volunteer at Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary in Enterprise, holds a skunk during Earth Week, held by Troy University's Environmental Club. The club held a tie-dye table, and Big Bend showcased different animals such as snakes and lizards.



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## Making music into a living *Polishing interview skills*

**Tori Roper**  
Staff Writer

Ben Strong, a senior music education major from Sylacauga, is involved in many aspects of music on and around Troy's campus.

Strong was surrounded by music growing up, which sparked his love for music at a young age.

Both of Strong's grandmothers were musically inclined. One of his grandmothers played the piano, and his other grandmother was a leading member of the Music Club Chapter in Birmingham.

Strong plays the piano and organ, but is also highly involved in choir, as his degree is on the choral track. He also played saxophone in high school.

Strong is the main pianist and organist at Ramer United Methodist.

Strong serves as the logistics manager of the choral department as part of the leadership team.

As logistics manager, Strong has numerous responsibilities.

"My responsibilities include moving and taking care of pianos worth over \$120,000, setting up chairs for classes and performances, making the occasional poster, reserving venues and parking for visitors, assisting in re-creating the choral music library," said Strong. "I'm more of a yes man."



**Ben Strong**

"Sometimes, it can be easy to forget that I'm actually a student, but I enjoy the work aspect of it," Strong said. "It's a concrete activity unlike most school activities and simulations therein."

Strong has had the opportunity through an early childhood education class to go into classrooms and teach basic music skills to young children.

"We teach them basics like volume, echo and speed," Strong said.

After receiving his degree, Strong hopes to become a choral instructor.

"The best-case scenario would be becoming a choral instructor in a university setting," said Strong. "I would like to be over a whole K-12 school setting as well. Even a high school or church would be good."

Strong's favorite thing about music is how it is a "stress reliever."

"I like how close-knit we are," said Strong of the music department. "We are always together. Everybody knows each other."

**Beth Hyatt**  
Copy Editor

Since the job hunt is about to begin for soon-to-be graduates, it is important to be prepared for what lies ahead.

While sending in the application is the first step to finding a job, the next step can be even more important: the interview. If you impress the employer enough to get an interview, you must make sure that it goes as well as possible.

When getting ready to meet a possible employer, the first thing to remember is to dress professionally.

"Going with a suit is always a good call when it's a career-oriented job," said Lauren Cole, coordinator of Career Services.

According to Cole, it is recommended to dress a few steps above what you are expecting.

For the men, a coat, tie and khakis would be acceptable if a formal suit

is not a part of your wardrobe. For the women, there are a few more guidelines.

Ladies, you want to look your best while feeling confident, and you can't do that if your outfit is too tight or too big or if your shoes are too high. Avoid heels that are difficult to walk in, dresses and skirts that show too much skin, and ill-fitting outfits in general. You want to show your employer that you are the best candidate for the job.

While it is important not to lose your own personal style, it is also recommended to put your best foot forward.

"The interview is the day to be your most conservative self. It's not that the employer is judging you, it's just what's expected in an interview situation," Cole said.

It is suggested that tattoos be covered, excessive piercings be removed and hair be styled professionally. Remember that the

company you apply for has its own idea of what is professional and acceptable. If your views do not match up, it could potentially cost you the job.

Personality is another factor that comes into play during an interview. It is a good idea to act professionally, but do not put on a show. You want to be up front and honest about who you are and what you can offer the company while doing so in an official manner.

Cole offered some advice to students going into job interviews. "

This is your one opportunity to really wow them and make a first impression," she said. "And they really see your personality for the first time."

Cole said that interviews are equally as important as resumes because they show employers what a paper is not able to convey. In an interview, you are able to say much more about yourself and are able to really sell yourself and what you can do.

Make sure to research the company you plan to work for before going into the interview. Know what it stands for, what it condones and how you would fit into its association. Once in the interview, you can talk more about your skills and how they would meet the job requirements.

Samantha Loff, a graduate post-secondary education Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages major from Dothan, has been through the interview process herself.

"I can say nothing other than to be your best self," she said. "Show them who you really are, and show them where you want to be. Let the company know that you are interested in growing and that you think they would be a wonderful place to start."

Loff reminds students to stay confident while in the interview.

For the full article, go to [www.tropnews.com](http://www.tropnews.com).



Brenna Patrick photo

**Whitney Hand, a freshman nursing major from Springville, gives an example of what she would wear to a job interview.**

## Outstanding freshman

**Jordan Ochoa and Philip Agee**  
Contributors

While some students are finding difficulty summoning the energy to press "Next Episode" on Netflix, Ashli Morris has been coordinating her meetings with two planners — a small one to carry daily and a larger master planner.

Morris, a freshman broadcast journalism major from Athens, is in Army ROTC, was president of Freshmen Forum this year, and next semester will be Freshman Forum director. She is on the executive board for Chi Omega and is one of two recipients of the NAACP Outstanding Freshmen Award.

Morris was chosen from approximately 2,000 freshman students for her leadership, involvement and 4.0 GPA.

"I just wanted to be



**Ashli Morris**

involved," said Morris of her goals coming into college. "I want freshmen to know they can make a difference, that they have a voice."

"Freshman Forum has really given me confidence and acclimated me to the school and staff so it is less intimidating to talk to people in authority positions about making changes," she said.

"PT and my different obligations gave me a need to be more balanced, and ROTC has taught me organization," Morris added, referring to the ROTC physical training.

"ROTC has changed my perspective on leaders," said Morris, who hopes to

be a public affairs officer in the Army. "In high school I was in leadership positions. Here that won't happen until I'm a junior, so I've had to learn to be a follower and embrace that role."

Even as a follower, Morris has managed to excel. She is contracted with ROTC as a freshman even though cadets usually do not get contracted until they are juniors.

"Now that I work so closely with people who are in the military, it has made me value them so much more for their service. It makes me want to be as admirable to someone else as they have been for me," Morris said.

"My inspiration is my mom," she said of her hard work and achievements. "She raised me alone, stayed in school, and got her B.S. in nursing."

"The difference you make is directly related to the risk you are willing to take."

## Water balloon fight to be held

**Tori Roper**  
Staff Writer

Troy University's Students for Social Justice will host an end-of-the-semester water balloon fight to raise money from Amnesty International on April 28.

Students for Social Justice holds meetings every Tuesday night at 5 p.m. which include discussion concerning human rights issues locally, nationally and internationally.

"Events we have held include a movie night, board game night, a campus poll on issues concerning students, and political forum with Eric Wright and Joel Williams," said Trey Tallant, a junior anthropology major from Grady and president of Students for Social Justice.

"Other topics of concern have been

that representation within the SGA has been far from representative of the total student population, consisting almost entirely of those involved in fraternities and sororities."

The water balloon fight will be open to all Troy University students for an admission price of \$2 a person. Half of all proceeds will go to Amnesty International.

Students for Social Justice will have 2,000 water balloons available, and Tallant encourages all students to arrive early to get more water balloons.

"We encourage people to bring water guns if they have them," said Tallant.

"The event will begin at 5 p.m., and the actual water balloon fight will start at 5:15," said Tallant. "We expect it to go on until around 5:45."

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## Editor-in-chief bids farewell to readers

**Chase Robinson**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

It's amazing how much stuff you can accumulate in nine months. My office is as packed as it was before I spent two days cleaning it out almost a year ago.

I'm thorough, though, and the piles of pamphlets, promotional materials, 3-month-old copies of the Dothan Eagle, chocolate and nerf darts are rapidly being sorted and removed.

I'm left to wonder what will remain of my time as editor-in-chief once I'm gone.

It's an honor to be the top dog at The Tropolitan, but prestige and legacy are short-lived in the world of college news. As it should be.

I don't know who was editor-in-chief 20 years ago. I don't know who had my job six years ago. I could find out, but chances are, I'd know them only as a name on a page. Their accomplishments would be foreign to me.

It's good for the paper. It protects against sacred cows. It's hard to be sentimental about decisions made by people you've never met.

It's also good for us outgoing folks. It forces us to be less concerned with legacy and more concerned with what we can do now and what we'll take with us when the paper leaves us behind.

I hope we've served the students well. If we've done that, we've accomplished something.

I've put aside a stack of newspapers with extra copies of favorites.

I've also got a few great stories, some decent ones in print and some funny ones to tell later on.

Thursday nights will be a source of warm memories for years to come. The tradition outdates my time at the Trop considerably. When I started, Thursday night's company included former A&E editors Jonathan Bryant and Zach Winslett, current A&E editor Kianna Collins, our chief copy editor Laura Hutto and me. Former graphic designer Carson Brown joined us in the fall of 2013, and the form has been mostly the same since.

The current incarnation is similar: Collins, Hutto, chief-copy-editor-to-be Thomas Gleaton and me.

The company rotates, usually a few new faces at the table, ever a source of good conversation.

Professionally, I have learned as much from Thursday nights as I have from Wednesday layouts and hundreds of hours of classwork.

Personally, they all know I think

fondly of them and don't go in for mush.

I'm also profoundly proud of some of the work we've done while I've been here.

April Irvin, our photography editor, who often reminds me that she's not a journalist, did an off-the-cuff interview with Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. on my watch.

I count that a victory.

It seems unfair not to name-drop everyone I've ever worked with at the Trop, but a journalist is concise.

I've made mistakes during my time at Troy University. A lot of mistakes, actually, but regret doesn't accomplish much.

I've enjoyed college, and it wouldn't be the same without a few inciting mistakes.

I'd be doing a lot of good friends a disservice not to mention the innumerable hours spent in the Trojan Center.

As a shy freshman, I didn't expect to find much in the way of friendship in college.

Instead, I learned what friendship really is from the loud, sarcastic, disagreeable herd of misfits with whom I hogged the TC's couches and armchairs my first three years of college. Again, there are too many good friends to list, but Reid "Sawcy" Potts, Matt "Default" Holmes, Devin Holmes and Chris "Good Guy" Griggs deserve to stretch my word count.

I've learned a great deal from friends, often more than I can admit without bruising my ego, but the alleged purpose of the university is for unlearned minds to learn from the learned.

The way I think, my approach to learning and to living, has been undeniably benefited by my professors.

Of particular note are James F. R. Day, Peter Howard and Steve Stewart. These three are responsible for about half the credit hours I've taken at Troy.

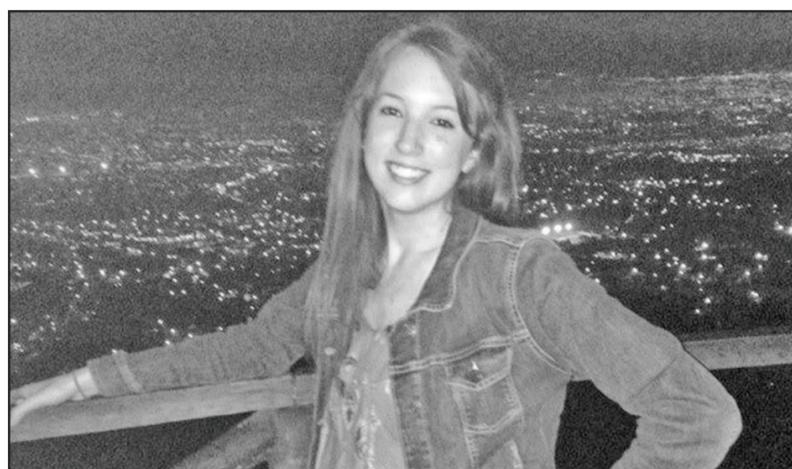
Also worth mentioning are Allen Jones, whose Western Civ classes almost wooed me into a history major; Doc Kirby, who helped me find my public voice; and Sam Shelton, who managed to make me look forward to a four-day-a-week summer class in a building with frequently failing air conditioning.

As a last note, to the paper that will soon leave me behind, I've got one more quote from Ben Bradlee, former executive editor of the Washington Post.

"The real spiel I have for you is to have a good time while you are in your jobs," Bradlee said. "Have a good time. The newspaper will be great if you're having a good time."



**Cassie Gibbs, Tropolitan news editor. She is graduating this semester with a bachelor's degree in English.**



**Laura Hutto**

## College: a chance to grow as a person

**Laura Hutto**  
*Chief Copy Editor*

Four years ago I got a phone call from my sister, Sarah Hutto, who was the Arts and Entertainment editor at the time. She offered me a position on the staff as a copy editor and the first opportunity for me to get involved at Troy.

I agreed happily because I was ready to do something else besides go to class and study. What I didn't know is how much of an impact that job would have on me.

The job was intimidating because it required me to be able to read and edit other people's work, which meant I had to brush up on my grammar and learn something completely new: AP style.

Working for the Tropolitan not only taught me AP style and better grammar, but it also allowed me to meet and work with some great individuals.

Not many people know what goes on behind the scenes of the newspaper or who puts it together, but I can tell you that it is the most diverse group of people you will probably find on campus.

From science to music, we have writers and editors from many departments, but we all come together week after week

to bring stories to the people of Troy University.

With such a diverse group of people comes hard times. We definitely had our issues and there have been many arguments, but we always got past it and moved forward.

During my time I have seen a website go up, a new publication created and a podcast started. I am proud of all of these accomplishments.

I can now say that I know from experience how beneficial it can be to get involved with an organization on campus even if that organization isn't specific to a student's major.

As a biomedical sciences major, it may not make a lot of sense for me to be working in journalism, but it has greatly expanded my horizons and allowed me to network because of all of the people I have met.

Some of my closest friends in college I found working on this newspaper. Thinking back on my time here, I do not know how I would have survived without that crazy group of people.

I am going to miss each and every one of the current members of the Tropolitan staff just as I have missed past members, and I wish all of them luck on their future

careers and endeavors.

There is a common saying that many people hear before entering college referring to the time there as "the best years of your life." I cannot say whether that is true or not, but I can say that they have been four stressful, wild, fun and unforgettable years. Classes and work played their part, but the Trop stands out amid the chaos.

I really encourage students to find a "home" away from home. That is what I found in the Trop office. I guarantee that this will make any college experience better.

College is not only a place to learn material and get a diploma; it is a chance to grow as a person by getting yourself out there, meeting new people and trying new things.

It has been a pleasure being chief copy editor, and I hope students didn't find too many mistakes in the paper during my time in this position. I am confident that future copy editors will keep the paper clean.

Thank you to all of the students and professors who have supported me and helped me get here, and congratulations to everyone graduating. Look for me on May 8; I will be the girl in the black cap and gown.



**Chase Robinson**

### 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

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## A farewell, a thank-you from a Trojan

**Devin Smith**  
Cardinal Rule  
Managing Editor

From the time I first became a member of the Tropolitan staff in fall 2012, I have occasionally found myself wondering how I would go about writing this, and despite all the things I've learned during my time here I am still not sure how to condense the past five years of my life into a few hundred words.

For me, college wasn't so much about starting the next phase of my life as it was ending the prior phase, and I would like to think that I'm not in the minority in that regard. But I got so caught up in getting away that I didn't put much thought into what I would do once I was here, which leads me to my first piece of advice.

Whether you're 17 or 27, college should be about bettering yourself. That process is different for everyone. There isn't a wrong way to go about it. Odds are you got here on your own; so when things get tough don't forget that.

Being born in Las Vegas had a huge impact on my life, and

although it has been a while since I've been back home that type of atmosphere made it difficult to appreciate living in the South.

I have a theory that you can gauge the quality of a city by the number of McDonald's it has, and Troy has one. I haven't done the research to validate that, but that didn't stop me from writing off the city of Troy for the majority of my time here. If I have any regrets about my time as a Trojan that is it, and it is also brings me to my second piece of advice.

The size of Troy leaves a lot to be desired, but that doesn't mean it has nothing to offer. It took me a while to realize that, and I let it affect my college experience in the process.

Make the most out of whatever situation you find yourself in. A positive attitude can go a long way if you let it. It isn't often that life will be ideal, and you will be a lot happier and sane if you make the best out of each day you're lucky enough to see.

There isn't enough white space on this page to thank all of the people who have had an influence on me over the years,



**Devin Smith**

but I would be doing myself a disservice if I didn't start with Andrew Clay, former sports editor. Despite all the back and forth between us and what some people may consider a combustible friendship, we both know it was all in fun.

Looking back, I can't imagine missing out on all the good times and life lessons the Trop has given me. I consider my time involved with this place as one of the best experiences I've had, and I have you to thank for that. I learned a lot from you over the years both as a journalist and a man, and I'm proud to call you a friend and mentor.

From time to time, I've also worked with TrojanVision and as a broadcast major that was invaluable to me, but the Trop will always be home for me. I was fortunate to be a part of its growth.

This leads me to my third piece of advice: take advantage

of new opportunities and experiences when they are presented to you.

It took some persistence from Clay to get me on board, but once I did, I never looked back. Grades matter, but college is about more than your grade-point average, and don't let anyone tell you differently.

As happy as I am to get my degree, I'd be lying if I said I'm not going to miss this place.

I bounced around a lot growing up, I lived in a dozen cities with a handful of different family members over the years, and if there is a place in Alabama I consider home it would have to be Troy. Getting to this point was quite the journey, and while I can't mention my entire family, I know I never would have made it if wasn't for my brothers.

Tim, if you wouldn't have taken me in all those years ago,

I'm not even sure I'd know my family today, and I am forever grateful for that although it may not seem like it from time to time.

Daniel, I'm not really sure where to start. I know our relationship hasn't always been great since I moved out, but regardless of what has happened you have been the only constant in my life, and I can't begin to express how much that still means to me.

Mom, I'm so happy to still have you in my life and I couldn't be more proud to walk across that stage next month with you watching. You mean the world to me and don't you forget it.

My fraternity brothers deserve a shout-out as well. I'm proud to be a member of Pi Kappa Phi, and you guys are just as much my family as my blood. I may not be on campus anymore, but I'm never too far to give me a call if you need anything.

The victory lap that has been my fifth year is coming to a close, and it's time to start the next chapter of my life. God willing, I'll look back on this one day and feel the same way I do as I'm writing it down.

Beginning college can feel like the first time you try to swim on your own; you jump into life as an adult with a lot of uncertainty just trying to calmly tread the water.

The first river you paddle runs through the rest of your life, it bubbles up in pools and eddies to remind you who you are.

I am a proud Trojan, and I will never forget what that means.



**Jennifer Carlisle**

## Goodbye from our photographer

**Jennifer Carlisle**  
Photographer

I have been a photographer for the Tropolitan all four years of my undergraduate degree, and I would not trade the experiences I have had through it for anything in the world.

From sporting events to symphony band concerts, I've been a part of a wide range of events.

Through being involved with the Tropolitan, I did not only strengthen my skills as a photographer, but also developed life long friendships.

Thank you, Tropolitan staff, both past and present, for those friendships.

I am also extremely thankful for my involvement in Alpha Epsilon Delta, Circle K and the

Alabama Rural Health Association. Each of these organizations encouraged me to be a better student, a better leader and an overall better person.

They each taught me about the importance of making an impact on the world around me.

Advice I would give to any college student would be to get involved in something you are passionate about, and it will greatly improve your college experience.

Troy University and its students, faculty and staff have made a lasting impression on my life.

Although I am not finished with my education, I will always be proud to call Troy my alma mater. Once a Trojan, always a Trojan.

## College years full of lessons learned from others

**Jill Odom**  
Sports Editor

I have been working for the Trop from the very beginning of my freshman year. I remember being wary and insisting to my brother, Caleb, that I would write a story only if it was a movie review.

Oh, if only I knew the variety of topics I would go on to cover, from big-name Troy coaches retiring to small, informative news stories about whether classes would be canceled due the Snowpocalypse of 2014. I have done a little bit of it all.

During my four years with the Tropolitan, I've seen many different forms of leadership in my various editors-in-chief, worked with many different people and experienced every form of emotion while contributing to this student newspaper.

I've been proud, sad, angry, frustrated, excited, amused and so many other attitudes.

I've poured blood, sweat and tears, oh so many tears, into this product with the simple hope that it will be appreciated somewhere, by some student.

As I sit back and reflect on the past semesters and Troppers of old, I realized just how much I've learned from all these people.

From Sarah Hutto, I learned that you can never turn in a story too early.

From Ed Bailey, I discovered that people really are noticing you whether you know it or not, so always give it your best effort in everything you do, because

you never know what kind of opportunities it may provide.

From Andrew Clay, I accepted that challenges from others and challenging yourself is a good thing.

I remember when I was Variety editor as a sophomore and was boasting for finishing early and Andrew drolly pointed out that I was laying out only one page.

At first I was annoyed, but then when I considered his words I took up his challenge and created more content and requested two pages.

From Cody Muzio, I now understand that just because something is your job, doesn't mean it doesn't have to be fun. Passion drives people to work far harder than they would for just a paycheck.

From my brother, I finally grasped the concept that I can never be who he is, but that isn't a bad thing. Everyone has different traits and different skills, but that doesn't make them incapable of doing just as good as a job as another.

From April Irvin, I have found that a little laughter can go a long way and sometimes a hug is all you need.

From Josh Thurston, I have learned that there is nothing wrong with standing your ground on something if it is something you truly believe in.

Jonathan Bryant, Laura Hutto and Zach Winslett have all helped me advance my writing, and I know there will always be room for more improvement.

There are so many other people I could mention and list the many lessons



**Jill Odom**

I have learned from this small student newspaper that believes in itself and its value to Troy's students. Please know that even if I didn't mention you, you have most definitely impacted my life in some way.

For all my friends and family members who have supported me as I have worked on this paper, thank you.

There are no words to express the deep appreciation that I have knowing that you all cared. You cared enough to read my articles and let me know that my efforts were worthwhile, even when I was down on myself.

Much of my work has probably gone unnoticed and overlooked, but I've found a simple joy in reporting the facts

and that uncovering little facets of the people I interview is a pleasure in and of itself.

I have no firm concept of what I'll be doing after I graduate, but I do know that the things I have learned at the Trop will stay with me forever, whether I'm writing for a newspaper or not.

It is said not to look back on the past, and even though I cringe sometimes looking at stories I wrote a few semesters back, it is good to see your progress and know that you are developing.

Always be willing to change, and never think that just because you graduated from college there isn't anything left to learn. Become a student in life, and it will amaze you what you can discover.

## 'So, kay, bye!'

**Beth Hyatt**  
Copy Editor

"So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodnight."

My time at The Tropolitan has come to a close, and words cannot express how thankful I am to have served on this staff.

When I joined the team a year ago, I had no interest in journalism or newspapers at all.

I merely wanted to get some experience copy editing. Once on staff, I learned more than I ever could have imagined.

I understand more about journalism and reporting now, and I actually would enjoy making a career of it. I learned how to perform interviews, how to meet strict writing deadlines and just what all goes into making a paper come to life.

This is no easy task, but we have successfully accomplished it week after week. Thank you, Trop.

You gave me a newfound respect for newspapers. My advice to anyone even remotely interested in working for a newspaper is to start now.

Go ahead and attend a Trop meeting. Meet the staff, spend some time in the office and just take it all in.

It's easy to catch on to the process, and



**Beth Hyatt**

the people on staff are amazing. No one is cut from the same cloth.

We all brought something different to the room, and this always kept layout nights interesting.

You don't have to be a certain type of person, listen to a certain type of music, or even look a certain way to fit in here.

The Trop is a family and I am honored to have been apart of it even for a short time.

You guys are amazing, and I can't wait to see where life takes you all.

I will miss you guys, and I wish you all the best. Thank you for letting me be a part of the family.

Peace out, boy and girl scouts!



**Taylor Bowser**, graphic design editor. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in graphic design.



**Josh Richards**, staff writer. He is graduating this semester with a bachelor's degree in English.

## Not a goodbye, simply a see-you-later

**Hannah Hartline**  
Staff Writer

Writing a farewell column is a first.

I remember coming in as a shy, intimidated transfer student with determination to be an English major. One semester later, I decided that journalism was far more my speed. Another semester went by, and I got up the courage to come to a meeting at the Tropolitan.

My journey with the Trop has been short, but sweet. In the two semesters I've been writing for the opinion section, I have learned so much and gained so many new friends that it makes me wonder why I didn't try this sooner.

To all of the staffers, thank you for welcoming me into the group with open arms. Thank you for the laughter and the memories.

Ngoc Vo, congratulations on becoming the editor-in-chief. I am so proud of you and all of your accomplishments.

Thank you for teaching me to write for the opinion column. Thank you for always being there when I needed a friend or encouragement. I promise that this is not a goodbye, simply a see-you-later.

I also promise to use Facebook less, and text more for you.

I also want to say thank you to Steve Stewart, who has been a steward of my learning for over a year now. I have learned so many things from you, and look up to

you as an adviser and friend.

You are one of the many reasons that Troy University has become my second home.

Thank you for always making me feel welcome, always listening to my concerns and helping me in any way that you can. I know that I am ready to take on the world because of your diligent guidance.

Also a huge thank-you to Ava Tabb for being one of my more challenging teachers. You've taught me to rise above and strive for greater. I feel that my technology skills are greater because of you. (Students, if you get to take Advanced Tech with Tabb, do it. It's really hard, but really worth it.)

Thank you for speaking to me that day in that classroom when I felt like I couldn't ever write for the Trop. You were right.

To all of my sources over the last year, thank you. I know I probably pestered some of you to death with questions, but thank you because without you there would not be an article.

If I could leave one piece of advice for students, it would be to not be afraid. That's the hardest thing in the world to do, I know.

Just take the chance. You never know what may happen. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there.

I know that it is because of all my teachers, all of my classes and all of my friends that I possess something more. I am more confident than I was as an incoming transfer, and I know that is something that will follow



**Hannah Hartline**

me for the rest of my life.

My Warrior Spirit will live on.

With Trojan love and pride.

## Once a Trojan, always a Trojan

**Caleb Hicks**  
Photographer

Although my time here at Troy has been relatively short, it feels like a glorious lifetime.

It has been filled with memories that will last forever. Being a photographer for the Trop staff has certainly been a privilege, and I have gained so much experience.

My time management skills were definitely put to the test as I juggled being a commuter, a photographer and a student.

I feel that the Trop has helped me grow, not only in my photography, but also as a person.

When I began working with this staff, I only knew one person, barely. Little did I know that this person would become one of my best friends here at Troy.

April Irvin, along with others, has become my family here at Troy. Jill Odom keeps me in line. Joshua Thurston knows nearly everything there is to know about cameras. Grishma Rimal, also known as, "John Smith," is extremely fun to be around and is also in charge of the chocolate milk in SAGA.

Alyse Nelson knows what is going on in Introduction to Communication; ask her. Cassie Gibbs, who is a student, will never fail at being funny.

I must thank Josh Richards for correcting the wording of my sentences. Jessica Smith motivates me to work out. Taylor Bowser is talented beyond her years as a graphic designer.



**Caleb Hicks**

Beth Hyatt is the best person to sing a duet with. Hannah Crews will always be the best person to talk to and a great friend. Lilly Casolaro can make mean casserole, of any kind. Kianna Collins plays the best dancing music on her computer. Last, but certainly not least, Chase Robinson, the almighty editor in chief, has provided the best candy parades and pizza.

I also must thank all of my professors and mentors who have helped me through many situations, especially Steve Stewart for being my adviser, and Ava Tabb for being a great teacher of journalism and an inspiring person.

My time here has come to a close, but in the words of Arnold, "I'll be back." I believe once a Trojan, always a Trojan, even though I will be elsewhere. This potato is going to fly around another room, so I bid thee farewell.



Seth Nicholson

# NEEDTOBREATHE

**Thomas Gleaton**  
Copy Editor

**Tori Roper**  
Staff Writer

**Tyler Wooley**  
Staff Writer

Through the pouring rain, students rushed to Trojan Arena to experience the NEEDTOBREATHE concert on Friday, April 17.

Before the South Carolina band took the stage, however, Nashville rocker Ben Rector came out to warm up the crowd.

Rector touched the crowd's hearts with a song called "The Men Who Drive Me Places," describing his experience with a cab driver.

Rector said that the cabbie's great service, even at 5 a.m., inspired him to be grateful in all situations.

NEEDTOBREATHE took the stage next, opening with a song from its latest album, "Rivers in the Wasteland."

The song, "State I'm In," featured heavy guitars and set the stage for the rest of the show.

The six-piece ensemble featured two drum sets, two guitarists, and the two brothers who started the band, Bear and Bo Rinehart.

Bear, the lead singer, spoke early about his association with Troy.

"They asked us if we knew where Troy was," Bear Rinehart said. "I said, 'Yeah, we drove here, didn't we?'"

Bear explained that he played football for Furman University, an FCS school, back when Troy was a Division II (now known as FCS) team.

"We always knew how good your football team was," Bear Rinehart said.



Members (from left to right): Bo Rinehart, Josh Lovelace, Bear Rinehart and Seth Bolt. Sully Sullivan photo

The group bounced easily between upbeat tunes and slower anthems, between earlier songs such as "Washed by the Water" and newer singles like "The Heart."

NEEDTOBREATHE played original songs the whole night, with one exception.

In the middle of their song "Wanted Man," the group moved into a cover of Aerosmith's 1975 song "Sweet Emotion."

NEEDTOBREATHE left the stage early, but chants of "encore" called them back.

The group finished the night with its latest single, "Brother," and a rendition of its 2007 hit "Washed by the Water."

From contemporary Christian songs to secular lyrics, the show was focused on appealing to the whole crowd.

Wesley Carney, a senior ecology and field biology major from Estill Springs, Tennessee, said he enjoyed the concert.

"The concert was great," Carney said. "The bands brought a lot of energy, despite the size of the crowd."

The smaller crowd made the experience more intimate for those in attendance.

The crowd spent the entirety of the show fully engaged in the music that surrounded them.

"NEEDTOBREATHE exceeded my expectations with their live show," Carney said. "Bear's vocals were incredible, and the talent the band displayed was phenomenal."

NEEDTOBREATHE, Rector, and another band called Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors will kick off their "Tour de Compadres" in Tuscaloosa on Thursday, April 23.



Lauren Taylor Cox photo

"I had a lot of fun. It's awesome to be able to pay \$15 for a concert and get front row seats. I loved getting to see the band up close, and see how they interact with the audience," said Lauren Taylor Cox, a junior nursing major from Enterprise.



Alex Lewis photo

NEEDTOBREATHE hails from Seneca, South Carolina, and consists of brothers Bo and Bear Rinehart, Seth Bolt and Joe Stillwell. They've toured with artists such as Train, Collective Soul, Will Hoge and Taylor Swift. They've released five studio albums; their latest is "Rivers in Wasteland."

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<p><b>R</b></p> <p>UNFRIENDED</p> <p>1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:20</p>	<p><b>PG</b></p> <p>LOVE</p> <p>1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:30</p>	<p><b>PG-13</b></p> <p>FURIOUS 7</p> <p>12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30</p>

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## Professors bid farewell to Troy

**Grishma Rimal**  
Variety Editor  
**Beth Hyatt**  
Copy Editor

At the end of the academic year, graduates are getting ready to move onto the next leg of their lives. But it's not just the students making a transition. Some professors are also making a shift from their teaching careers to the retired life.

### James Day

After a 27-year-long career at Troy University, James Day, professor of English, will be retiring.

Day plans to move to Florida with his mother where he will pursue his writing career as well as fine-tune his keyboard skills.

When asked if he has enjoyed his time at Troy, Day said, "I've enjoyed teaching. (Troy) is surprisingly willing to let teachers do what they think they need to do. There are a lot of places where, if I were to take on literary theory, I might not get tenured. That is not true of here."

Ben Presley, a sophomore global business major from Garland, has never taken a class with Day, but has heard many stories regarding the professor.

"He will very easily get your attention," Presley said. "He's a very nice person; a lot of people don't think he is. People get overwhelmed with him in the classroom, from what I hear."

educated. Probably the most over-qualified (person) to teach at Troy." Day is an Oxford University alumnus.

Ganus recalls Day's class and the workload that accompanied it. "He's very fair, but he expected a lot out of the students. It was not an easy 'A' at all," he said.

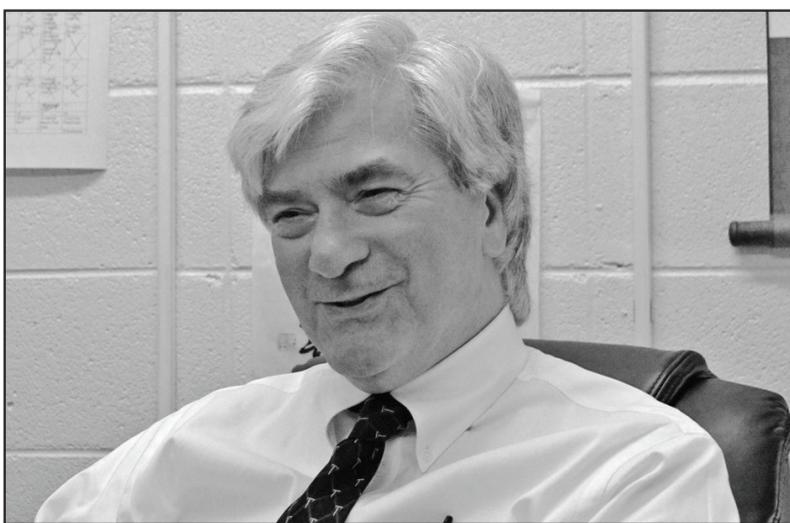
By taking Day's class, Ganus said he was able to learn more in-depth information about not just literature, but history, art and music as well. According to Ganus, along with each story Day assigned, a lesson on the history surrounding the story would follow.

By doing this, Day hoped to give his students a better look into the culture of the times in order to show why a piece may have been written a certain way.

Brada King, a freshman English major from Nectar, is currently taking classes with Day. "He's a very interesting person," she said. When asked what her favorite memory of Day was, King said, "(Him) singing us the excerpt from 'The Marriage of Figaro.'"

Day said he will miss Troy and hopes to see it continue to grow and prosper. "We are supposed to do the best with where we're put," he said. "The university is changing, it's growing, it's certainly more beautiful now. I think that, in time, we will do fine."

Day's time at Troy will be remembered by both faculty and students alike. Many students wish him well on his journey.



Hannah Crews photo

**Samuel Shelton has been a political science teacher at Troy University since 2002.**

"I think I've always said that we in the political science department have some of the best students that ever applied to Troy University," Shelton said. "So that's been one of the most enjoyable parts about being at Troy."

Shelton said that as many of his students are involved within the campus through Greek organizations or SGA or other service groups, it translates into them being more involved within their classes.

"I don't think any teacher will tell you that it's not fun to have engaging students in their classes," he said.

Teaching at a university was something Shelton always aspired to do even while he worked as a district court administrator with the state of Wisconsin court system.

"There was a period of transitional opportunity, and so I went to North Carolina State University in their Ph.D. program," he said. "When I completed that in 2002, I was looking for a job obviously, and there was an opening here at Troy and I applied, and I was lucky enough to get it."

His engrossment in political science itself dates further back though. "In 1956, I would stay up and watch the two political conventions and considering I was just beginning school it was sort of an unusual situation."

Shelton said that his interest further augmented in the '60s through a combination of political events like the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War amongst others.

Of course Shelton's interest is not limited to politics and academia.

Much like his students, he too has explored multiple extracurricular activities. He has worked in the undergraduate academic council and the faculty senate, serving as president of the committees at some point.

"I've been fortunate enough in that regard to have had an opportunity to interact with administrators and other faculty at the university, which certainly helped me to be engaged in what's going on at Troy University and for me that was a very valuable experience," he said.

As a sports and fine arts enthusiast, Shelton also devotes his time to attend campus athletic and fine arts events as he enjoys being a spectator at such programs.

"The other thing that I've always felt about universities in general and certainly small towns, which Troy certainly is, is that it doesn't matter how small the town

is," Shelton said. "If there is an institution of higher education there, there is more than enough things to keep you involved in and I like to get involved."

His outgoing personality combined with his strong work ethic is what made Jarrod Mack, a senior political science major from Robertsedale, say that he "commands respect but is also very approachable."

"That's a technique that's kind of hard to master," Mack said.

"He loves interacting with his students and more importantly he cares about the quality of the education that they receive while teaching his classes," he said. "His classes, they encourage critical thinking but at the same time he gives you the knowledge necessary to learn."

Amber Voss, a senior political science major from Wetumpka, also praised Shelton for his teaching and work as her adviser.

"Dr. Shelton is wonderful," she said. "He is very personable with his students, and he makes sure that he provides any learning opportunity for us to understand the material through group projects or hands-on activities, just to make us well rounded."

"I wouldn't have wanted anyone else to be my adviser over the past four years. He has given me great advice over the years and I think he has really inspired a lot of students."

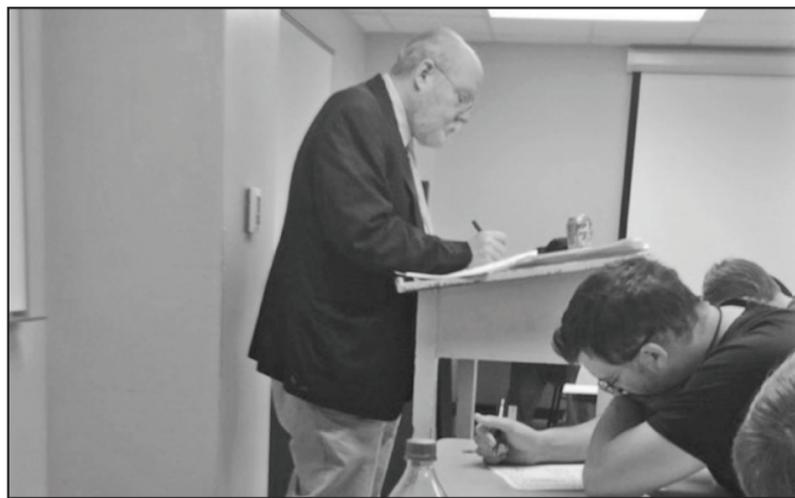
The next chapter in Shelton's life includes, to his joy, a lot of traveling — but turning that next page would not have been possible without his colleagues, he said.

"I wouldn't have stayed for 13 years if I didn't enjoy working with the people that I've worked with and it's been certainly a unique experience, seeing the growth of the department and therefore, seeing the growth of what the department can potentially do."

Shelton said that he hopes the expansion of the department with diverse faculty members exposes students to more ideas and perspectives to improve their overall educational prospects.

Although the department will expand and new faculties will be brought in to teach Shelton's classes, the unique mark he has left behind in the college will be unforgettable for most of his students.

"I would just like to thank him for tolerating me the past three years and definitely being one of my best friends in the faculty here at Troy University," Mack said.



Beth Hyatt photo

**This is James Day's 27th year teaching at Troy University.**

While Presley has never taken a class with Day, he has held conversations with the professor and has become well acquainted with him. "He really cares about the students, whether people think it or not. I think what he does has meaning," Presley said.

One of Day's fondest memories of Troy took place three years ago. In honor of his mother's 100th birthday, the Troy University department of theater and dance performed a dance show dedicated to her.

His second favorite memory involved Angela Glover from Florida State University playing the third Rachmaninoff concerto with strings. "I honestly felt like, when I stepped out of the auditorium, that I should be stepping onto a New York sidewalk," he said. "It was just that kind of experience."

Kyle Ganus, a senior political science major from Leesburg, Florida, has taken Day for only one class but remembers the experience vividly. "He's very outspoken in what he thinks about various topics, whether they be art, literature, politics," Ganus said. "He's very

"May he enjoy Florida," King said.

When asked if he had any departing words to the students of Troy, Day said, "We tend to think that all of the best minds are at the famous schools, that there is a direct correlation between the Ivy League and intelligence or wisdom — that is not the case. If you make use of your classes, if you make use of what is available, you can become educated. It really is a matter of what you are willing to do."

### Samuel Shelton

Within the classroom, he "commands respect but is also very approachable," a student said. Outside the classroom, students can see him at baseball and basketball games, lauding the team and the band.

Samuel Shelton, associate professor of political science and director of master's in public administration program, has shown his Trojan spirit for the last 13 years within and beyond MSCX. As he prepares for retirement this semester, Shelton looked back at his teaching philosophy and reflected on his time at Troy.

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**Want to become a Tropper?**

Email [newswire@tropnews.com](mailto:newswire@tropnews.com) to become a part of the Trop staff starting Fall 2015. 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.

## Track and field returns to dominate

Jill Odom  
Sports Editor

The Troy track and field team wrapped up the War Eagle Invitational with several top-three finishes on Saturday, April 18.

The Trojans returned to Auburn on Friday, April 17. Senior Demetris Elia picked up third place in the men's hammer throw.

Teammate freshman Joevar James also placed third in his event, the javelin throw.

In the women's field events, sophomore Allison Taylor threw her hammer 42.77 meters.

Junior Julia Ostendorf and sophomore Mikayla Hodges flew past their previous records in the women's running events.

Ostendorf finished the 1500-meter run with the new time of 4:45.12. Hodges crossed the finish line at 18:03.64 in the 5000-meter run. They both placed sixth in their individual events.

On Saturday, April 18, freshman Dylan Ogburn won first place in the men's 1500-meter run and was close to setting a new personal best.

Ostendorf earned second place in the 3000-meter steeplechase at 11:06.26. Sophomore Sean Kent placed third in the same event for the men, finishing in 10:11.17.

Freshman Sydney Wright competed in three separate events and took home fourth in both the 100-meter final and the 200-meter dash.

She set new personal records in both of the events as well. Freshman Niata Alexander also participated in the 200-meter dash and earned eighth place.

The women's 4x400-meter relay snatched a second place finish and finished at 3:52.55.

Wright was also part of the women's 4x100-meter relay team, which included seniors Alexis Cobbs and Paige McMillan, and junior Cameia Alexander.

The relay team placed fifth with a time of 46.81 seconds.

The women who competed in the field events were also successful. Cobbs secured second place in the long jump after making a 5.71-meter leap.

Freshman Jaevyn Worthham competed in the women's discus and shot put. She finished third and fourth in the events, respectively.

Sophomore BJ Kennedy rounded out the invitational by placing fourth in the men's long jump, reaching 6.97 meters.

The track and field team will travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the Penn Relays on April 23-25.



Hannah McGaha photo

Sophomore Joerrel Williams practices his sprints for the upcoming Penn Relays in Philadelphia on April 23-25. The Troy track and field team has only two more meets in the regular season left before the Sun Belt Championship.

## Tennis team wins title

Ty Ammons  
Staff Writer

The Troy Trojans men's tennis team won the Sun Belt Championship after beating Louisiana Lafayette and South Alabama on April 18-19, while the women's team fell in the first round to UT Arlington.

On Friday, April 17, the Troy women's team put on a poor showing against UT Arlington in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Troy pulled out only one singles match, and consequently doubles matches were not played.

Freshman Jiayuan Xue won her match 7-6, 7-6 against sophomore Astrid Gehre, and prevented the Trojans from being shut out.

The Trojan men were far more successful in New Orleans at the Sun Belt Conference Championship.

Troy was seeded No. 1 in the Sun Belt tournament, which gave it a bye in the first round. The Trojan men are currently ranked No. 60 nationally.

The men's team took on Louisiana Lafayette in the semi-finals on Saturday, April 18.

Junior Gabriel Dias won his line one singles match against junior Edgar Lopez 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Sophomore Hassan Ndayishimye won his line two singles match 7-5, 6-3 against junior Jake Wynan.

At line four singles, junior Daniel Bustamante won his match against sophomore Will Huyton 6-3, 6-1.

Sophomore Pablo Moreno defeated senior Jarred Wynan at line five doubles 6-3, 6-2.

Line three was lost by freshman Andy Lau and line six was unfinished for junior Giovani Samaha. Doubles matches were not played.

Troy went on to the finals on Sunday, April 19, to take on No. 69 South Alabama.

Ndayishimye won his line two singles match against junior Tim Srkala 6-2, 6-0.

Moreno won his line five singles 6-0, 7-6 against freshman Olivier Gingras.

Samaha defeated junior Gerhard Grindelinh at line six singles 7-5, 6-3.

Dias and Lau won line two doubles 8-6 against Srkala and senior Manuel Belda.

Sophomore Andre Baldo and Ndayishimye won line three doubles against sophomore Tuki Jacobs and junior Juan Troglia 8-5.

Lau's and Dias's singles matches were unfinished, and Samaha and Moreno lost line one doubles.



Caleb Hicks photo

Junior Daniel Bustamante won his singles match against Louisiana Lafayette on April 18.

"Today was a special moment for me to walk onto the tennis courts with an amazing group of young men," head coach Scott Kidd said. "Their spirit, determination and commitment during the Sun Belt Championships set them apart from all the other teams."

Thanks to Troy's win, it will head to the NCAA Regional competition on May 8-10 on campus sites.

On Monday, April 20, Kidd was officially named the Sun Belt Coach of the Year.

In his second year of coaching the Trojans, Kidd's team finished with a 25-6 record and was undefeated in Sun Belt matches.

## Trojans sweep the Eagles

Michael Shipma  
Staff Writer

The Troy softball team dominated the opposition in its road series against Georgia Southern, winning both games on Saturday, April 18, and another on Sunday, April 19.

The Trojans (29-19, 11-7 Sun Belt) have moved up to the third spot in the Sun Belt rankings with just seven games left in the regular season.

Troy set the pace for the entire series in the first game with solid defense and productive hitting against the Eagles (12-32, 4-17 Sun Belt).

Sophomore right fielder Becca Hartley put the Trojans on the board first with a sacrifice ground out RBI to put them up 1-0 in the first inning.

The Eagles responded in the bottom of the third with an RBI single from sophomore first baseman Morgan Robinson to tie the game. It was the only run scored by Georgia Southern in the game.

Troy proceeded to score six unanswered runs the rest of the way, as the Eagles were unable to overcome a five-strikeout performance from senior pitcher Jaycee Affeldt.

Junior left fielder Amanda Winters led the Trojans offensively with three RBIs and a homer. She went two for four at bat, as the Trojans cruised past Georgia Southern 7-1 in the first game of the series.

The momentum from the first game carried over into the second game of the doubleheader for the Trojans, as they bowled over the Eagles for another victory.

Hartley and junior third baseman Khadija Neely both had RBIs in the first inning to put Troy on top early 2-0.

The Trojans added three more runs in the top of the third inning,



Caitlin Collins photo

Senior pitcher Jaycee Affeldt earned two wins during the Georgia Southern series and had 13 strikeouts.

but Robinson provided a lift for the Eagles with a three-run homer to make the score 5-3 after the third inning.

The Trojans halted the comeback, however, with solid relief pitching from junior pitcher Sara Mock. Mock recorded just one strikeout in four innings of pitching, but gave up zero hits.

Senior first baseman Michelle Phelps sealed the deal for Troy by batting in two more runs in the fourth to make the final score 7-3.

There was no slowing down the Trojans in the third and final game of the series on Sunday.

Troy dominated in every aspect of the game, thanks to combination of excellent pitching from Affeldt, who had eight strikeouts, and consistent hitting on offense.

The Trojans jumped way out in front in the first two innings,

tallying up 10 runs and shutting down any offense generated by Georgia Southern.

Winters led Troy with four RBIs and a solo home run. Freshman center fielder Carli Kayler also added four RBIs and a home run.

Georgia Southern managed one run in the bottom of the third inning when Robinson hit an RBI double to make the score 10-1.

Troy wasn't finished yet, however, and proceeded to score three more runs in the fifth inning to make the score 13-1 and ensure its victory by mercy rule.

The Trojans finished their last road game of the season on Tuesday, April 21, and lost 5-2 to Alabama.

Troy returns home to play UT Arlington on April 25-26. First pitch starts at 1 p.m.

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## Mavericks best the Trojans

**Wes Fortson**  
Staff Writer

The Troy University baseball team traveled to face off against the Mavericks of UT-Arlington Friday, April 17, but dropped the series 2-1 after losing an early six-run lead in the last game of the series.

That night in Arlington, Texas, got ugly as the weather pushed game one of the series into a doubleheader once again on Saturday, April 18.

The doubleheader was the fourth time this season that weather forced two games to be played on a Saturday.

“Anytime you’re on the road, that’s a challenge,” said assistant coach Mark Smartt. “Then we got up early Saturday for a long doubleheader day on the road, and I thought our players handled it very well.”

Game one was not in favor of the Trojans as they lost 15-4 to open the series.

Junior pitcher Grant Bennett dropped only his second loss of the season as he battled against the hot bats of the Mavericks.

Bennett stretched his outing to five innings after giving up six runs to UT-Arlington in the second inning.

However, Troy’s offense could not compensate for the large deficit as it put together just four runs against the Mavericks’ 15.

UT-Arlington put together a whopping 17 hits, including two doubles, a home run, and struck out only twice.

“I gotta give UT-Arlington credit,” said head coach Bobby Pierce. “They just started getting solid base hit after solid base hit, and mixed in a few bloopers to have some big innings throughout the whole series.”

Game two of the series was a different story for the Trojans as they fought for a 7-6 victory to tie the series on Saturday.

Junior pitcher Lucas Brown got the start for Troy in game two and was successful at avoiding the Mavericks’ bats through seven innings, but ran into trouble in the eighth.

The Trojans started out hot with some



Caitlin Collins photo

**Sophomore third baseman TJ Binder hit a double in game two against the Mavericks and scored senior designated hitter David Hall.**

early runs in the second and third innings. Senior first baseman Trevin Hill led off the second inning with a double and was quickly followed up by senior designated hitter David Hall who reached on a fielding error that allowed Trevin Hill to rush home on the play.

Two batters later, freshman shortstop Matt Sanders singled to left-center field and sophomore third baseman TJ Binder doubled down the right field line to knock home David Hall.

The third inning also led to three more runs for Troy with some help by junior left fielder Hoke Granger and junior right fielder Logan Hill.

Junior third baseman Bert Givens singled to left center and scored Hill.

Sanders stepped in again for Troy and came through with a sacrifice fly ball to left field that allowed Givens to score and put the Trojans on top 5-0 in just three innings.

Troy tacked on another pair of runs in the sixth to cushion their lead, but the Mavericks came back with a six-run eighth inning that cut things a little too close for the Trojans’ liking.

Senior pitcher Jeremy McGowan came in for Troy to close out the ninth inning and earn his fifth save of the season on the three quick outs.

On Sunday, April 19, Troy looked to take home another series win, but couldn’t find the pitching to close out the game and gave up an early six-run lead in a 10-7 loss to UT-Arlington.

The Trojans crossed home plate four times in the first inning, all with two outs.

The first run was thanks to senior second baseman Nick Masonia who singled to left field and allowed Hill to score all the way from second.

Binder followed up Masonia with another single to left field and scored David Hall from second.

Sanders also slipped a single through the right side of the infield and picked up two RBIs as Binder and Masonia touched home.

In the second inning, Troy added a pair of runs to the scoreboard, but was quickly answered by UT-Arlington, which scored a pair of its own runs on a double by freshman center fielder RJ Williams.

The Mavericks clawed their way back with multiple runs in the third and fourth innings that put them on top 9-6.

Troy closed the three-run gap by one in the sixth inning when junior pinch hitter Cameron Sanders ground out to the shortstop, but Sanders rushed home from third to give the Trojans a glimpse of hope.

However, the Mavericks put the nail in the coffin with a lone run in the bottom of the eighth that put the game out of reach for Troy and brought the final score to 10-7.

“They totally jumped right back in the game around the fourth and fifth inning, then extended their lead,” Pierce said. “We got one run after the first two innings to get to seven, and in the meantime they got to 10 and we couldn’t find a way to catch up.”

Troy defeated Kennesaw State 6-2 on Wednesday, April 22.

The Trojans will be back on the diamond at Riddle-Pace Field on Friday, April 24, against Texas State 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:  
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Or Call (866) 992-6174

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