

## Welcome Back

Trojans return from snow break.



Troy University's Official Student Newspaper

# TROPOLITAN

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## Board of Trustees' rec. center fee decision postponed

Cassie Gibbs  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association recently passed a new resolution, proposed by SGA President Cody Farrill, that will create a \$125 fee to be paid each semester to help renovate Sartain Hall into a recreation center.

The \$125 recreational center fee created by this resolution would be implemented in August of 2014. The fee would only affect freshman and sophomores in the 2014-15 school year, however, juniors may be affected if the renovation time line is changed to speed up renovations and allow for an earlier opening date.

These renovations, if approved by the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, will be the first of many building changes the SGA hopes to administer around Troy's campus.

SGA President Cody Farrill, a senior political science major from Panama City Beach, Fla., believes that these renovations will help show students that their voices are heard and that the SGA works hard to ensure that the needs and wants of the students are a priority.

He hopes that these renovations will also help show that Troy University is not only focused on academics and athletics, but also on aspects of the school which the students wish to see changed.

If the resolution is approved by Student Affairs, the SGA will hold multiple town hall meetings so that the students will be able to voice their opinions on what recreational equipment they would like to see in the new facility.

"Renovating Sartain Hall will allow the students to see that they have power and opportunity to change things on this campus," Farrill said.

"I think this is an exciting opportunity to show how Troy is excelling at both recruiting new students and retaining existing ones," Farrill said.

SGA Senator Matthew Thompson, a sophomore accounting major from Montgomery, also believes that these renovations to Sartain and other building projects will help Troy gain more interest from future students.

"This recreational center is a great opportunity to show that we are ready to compete with other larger scale universities," Thompson said.

The resolution to implement a \$125 recreation center fee is now waiting to be approved. The Board of Trustees approval meeting has been postponed to March.

# Make up snow days?

Academic board to meet Friday to discuss possibility of make-up days

Jill Odom  
Sports Editor

After Troy's campus was closed for three days straight, the question remains to be answered whether students will have to make up the missed days.

Hal Fulmer, dean of undergraduate studies, said that Earl Ingram, the senior vice chancellor, will be meeting with an academic board today to discuss whether the days should be made up.

"Our primary concern is safety," Fulmer said.

Due to that fact, snow and ice is so uncommon that there are no written procedures on what should be done. The student handbook, *The Oracle*, only covers how to handle thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes.

According to *The Oracle*, faculty and students will not be penalized for absences dictated by perilous conditions.

In severe cases of inclement weather, the Office of the Provost on each campus will announce cancellation of classes through the local and regional media as well as through the university's web sites.



April Irvin photo

Shannon Kailey, a junior nursing major from Helena, enjoys the snow near the Shackelford quad on campus. Troy University closed its doors on Tuesday due to a severe winter storm. While taking time from class, Troy students enjoyed the frozen precipitation that blanketed the entire campus. Other 'snow day' photos can be seen on page six of this issue.

## New scholarship, more possibilities

Study abroad award offers opportunities for international study

Valario Johnson  
News Editor

The Chancellor's Award for Global Competitiveness is an internationally focused scholarship that both offers students a chance to study abroad and gives them an edge in the global job market.

The Troy University Foundation and the Car Tag Program sponsor the scholarship.

This study abroad scholarship is available to graduate and undergraduate students who have attended Troy for at least one semester, is in good standing with the university and has maintained a 2.5 GPA while doing so.

The selection committee intends to award recipients with \$750 that will go towards their study abroad expenses.

Additionally, students who receive the scholarship are required to attend a university-approved study abroad opportunity that would be applied towards the students' degrees.

The scholarship would normally have an application deadline of Jan. 15 for spring and summer trips and Apr. 15 for fall studies, but because of the abrupt debut of the scholarship, the selection committee is working around this.

"This year, we will work on a rolling application basis," said Orlando Pacheco, Troy Univer



Aubrey Toole photo

Aubrey Toole, a senior biomedical sciences major from Pace, Fla., is a Troy student participating in an international program. Toole is currently in Heidelberg, Germany. Germany is one of many of the places that Troy students are allowed to study abroad, and with the Chancellor's Award for Global Competitiveness, the option to study in a foreign country can be possible. Application acceptance is on a rolling basis. Questions can be directed to Orlando Pacheco.

See **Abroad**, page 2

 FRIDAY 59°F   39°F high low	 SATURDAY 67°F   56°F high low	 SUNDAY 71°F   53°F high low	 MONDAY 63°F   52°F high low	 TUESDAY 70°F   57°F high low	 WEDNESDAY 58°F   31°F high low	 THURSDAY 50°F   35°F high low
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## Leadership, preparation: reasons for general's visit

**Lindsey Schoewe**  
Staff Writer

Air Force Lieutenant General David S. Fadok made an appearance on Troy University's campus last week.

Lt. General Fadok, the Maxwell Air Force Base Air University commander and president, is responsible for military education and for the Officer Training School and Reserve Officer Training Corps' officer commissioning.

Fadok talked to Troy's Air Force ROTC program about leadership and preparation for active duty on Thursday.

"Seeing these future Air Force officers again was a pleasure," Fadok said. "I saw them at the Air Warfare Symposium last year in Orlando, Fla. and I was their senior mentor

at Field Training this summer at Maxwell, Air Force Base, Ala."

The cadets of Detachment 017 were able to have a question and answer session with Fadok, where they gained knowledge about the active duty life that these cadets are going to experience after they commission.

"One of the things I hope these cadets take out of this is to show initiative in creativity when you come on activity duty and to have perseverance," Fadok said.

After spending the afternoon with the ROTC cadets, the Lt. General spoke with Chancellor Hawkins and toured Troy University's campus.

With the help of Troy University, the aerospace studies students will be going to the 30th Annual

Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition in Orlando, Fla. on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

The students will get to listen to different military leaders and see exhibits highlighting aerospace education and technology.

"The AFA Air Warfare Symposium is a great opportunity for future Air Force officers to get a glimpse of the 'big picture' of the Air Force by meeting and greeting the Air Force's top commanders, as well as being able to browse through the Technology Expo and see all the newest aerospace technology," said Jonathan Roberts, a senior criminal justice major from Enterprise.

## Abroad

continued from page 1

city's director of study abroad programs and a member of the scholarship's selection committee. "We really sent out the information too late, so we can't expect students to have it ready."

With the scholarship being a new university addition, Pacheco does not expect more than 70 applications for the first applicant pool; however, as students become more aware of the benefits the scholarship can offer, he expects to have at least 100 applicants, especially with this year's scholarship fund budgeted for 100 scholarships.

The budget is expected to fluctuate over the years, depending on the amount of student interest the scholarship garners.

Being that the scholarship is of monetary value, it serves a purpose, in respect to the student's personal experience. The student is expected to gain something culturally meaningful during and after their excursion abroad.

"This program helps to celebrate the different cultures that we have in America," Pacheco said. "When you compare things, you learn, and you will be able to value what is at home."

Pacheco hopes any student's purpose who studies abroad, with or without the scholarship, is willing to explore how to be internationally savvy. To be able to functionally operate and learn how to tackle problems outside of your comfort zone is what teaches you to have respect for what you have, Pacheco explained.

The barrier that Americans face with studying abroad, Pacheco said, is a geographical element. Having such a broad span between the United States and other countries that speak other languages, hinders Americans from learning or understanding other cultures. Because of this unawareness, students in America, especially in Troy, are not as excited about studying abroad. Often, this is because the student does not know another language.

"Immersion is a non-scholastic way of learning," Pacheco said. "The culture and the language will permeate you. You can survive in a country without knowing the language."

The Chancellor's Award for Global Competitiveness is attempting to break these barriers and fears. Pacheco said that Troy is integrated in helping students embrace the international world market and that this scholarship was indicative of that. Pacheco also said that the initiative was created and embraced by the university, and he has been with it at every level of its progression.

"Students are smart, and they know how to get ahead. We are trying to foster students who want to engage in the global market," Pacheco said. "I just provide them the opportunity to learn. In order to succeed, you need to understand what the boundaries of the whole world are."

Pacheco also encourages students to inquire more about researching abroad for extended periods of time. He said that many students are ill-informed of the opportunities Troy offers in this respect, and that, financially, the price to study abroad for six months or longer is equal, if not cheaper, to the price of tuition and fees at Troy University.

"In the past, it was expensive," Pacheco said. "But now, it's not, when you eliminate double jeopardy."

Before Pacheco was recruited by the

Chancellor to serve as the study abroad coordinator, he said that students who studied abroad during that time had to pay a double jeopardy. The student would have to pay tuition and fees at both Troy and the international institution of their choice.

When Pacheco arrived at Troy, he said he worked diligently to change that, and he did.

Pacheco said that to study abroad in either Costa Rica or Germany would cost a student \$5400 and \$5500 in tuition and fees a semester, respectively, which he pointed out is comparable to what students are charged on the Troy campus.

Even more, the student has the choice of paying Troy tuition or international tuition, which could be seen as a benefit for out-of-state students, who pay double the regular Troy tuition and fees an in-state student pays.

Pacheco explained that if you are out-of-state, you have the option to pay the international university's tuition and fees instead of Troy tuition and fees, which more than halves the price of secondary education, for most students.

If a student decides to study for just a few weeks or plan to have an extended stay, the scholarship is open to all who qualify.

Pacheco said that students should seriously contemplate why they want to study abroad.

"Why do you want this money," Pacheco asked students. "How will it benefit you?"

Meredith Hidle, a junior biomedical sciences major from Dothan, planned to study abroad within Spain's healthcare system this summer, and believed the scholarship would have definitely helped with financing her abroad studies. This particular trip to Spain would have also counted towards Hidle's degree.

"I know the class counts as one of my upper level classes, which I like," Hidle said. "In addition, I would not only have the chance to shadow physicians but do that while experiencing a completely different and new culture."

After scholarship recipients return from the trip abroad, they are required to submit a paper on their experience and what they gained from their time overseas. Also, the student may have to offer a presentation about their travels if requested by the selection committee.

More information on the Chancellor's Award for Global Competitiveness and the university's international programs can be found at <http://trojan.troy.edu/internationalprograms/>.

Earl Ingram, senior vice chancellor of academic affairs, is appointing the selection committee today. Word as to if this commemoration is public is not certain.

Serving on the committee is Pacheco; Hal Fulmer, associate provost; Curtis Porter, associate vice chancellor of international affairs; Johanna Alberich, assistant professor of modern languages and classics; and Jean Laliberte, associate vice chancellor of advancement.



Visarut Pawawongsak photo

Li Bochen (left) and Li Jiawen (right), a graduate public administration student from Chongqing, China, participate in a traditional Chinese dance during last year's Chinese feast and festival.

## Chinese celebration brings ancient traditions to Troy

**Kaseri LuSuwaratana**  
Staff Writer

Troy University students and the City of Troy have a chance to experience a holiday in Chinese culture and a big celebration without even having to go farther than university campus.

Students can bring in the Year of the Horse with the annual Chinese Spring Festival Celebration that will include traditional dances, elaborate foods and decorations, and the giving of gifts.

The event will take place in the Ballroom of the Trojan Center at 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31. The tickets are \$11 for students and \$17 for others and are available at 116 Pace Hall on the Troy Campus.

Jack Dong, president of the Troy University Chinese Students and Scholars Association, is the director of this event and invites everyone to partake in the feast of Chinese food that will be laid out for all to enjoy, especially Chinese dumplings.

"Chinese dumplings mean wealth because there was a time when Chinese people could not afford many luxuries. Dumplings were eaten during special times, such as New Year celebration, and were hoped to bring prosperity and wealth to each family," Dong said.

There will be several performances such as fan dances and an ethnic Chinese costume show. The traditional aspect of the spring celebration will also have

a modern twist with Chinese pop songs and contemporary dances.

There is a chance to win New Year gifts when you buy red tickets with your regular admission ticket for \$1. Each red ticket serves as a chance to win prizes and can be purchased on location or in 116 Pace Hall.

Chinese New Year is an occasion for watching the expression of Chinese traditions and learning more about the holiday. The diversity of Troy University makes the celebration of ushering in the New Year, the Year of the Horse, a possibility.

Dong has many plans for the celebration.

"Chinese New Year is one of my favorite holidays. It is a time when families get together and eat so much food. I am excited about this event and want to share this great celebration with everyone."

Dong has also offered to deliver tickets. "We will deliver tickets in the City of Troy that are offered by email or phone," Dong said.

Bring in the Year of the Horse by attending the celebration on Friday in the Trojan Ballrooms at 5 p.m. Tickets can be bought by calling 334-808-6146 or 334-492-0339.

For additional information or to buy tickets by email, contact the CSSA at [cssa@troy.edu](mailto:cssa@troy.edu) or stop by the office in 116 Pace Hall.

## Daybook

Sunday, Feb. 2

**Ignite, 8 p.m.**

Christian Student Center will spend Sunday nights in devotion at the CSC building on George Wallace.

Monday, Feb. 3

**Spring Membership Drive, 12 p.m.**

The Beta Iota chapter of Phi Gamma Nu Business fraternity will be hosting a Spring Membership Drive. All Business majors/minors are highly encouraged to stop by for more information. The drive will be held in the Trojan Center Lobby.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

**Student Government Association, 6:30 p.m.**

The SGA meets every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. in Trojan Center 119. All students are encouraged to attend.

**SGA Elections, 8 a.m.**

Elections will be held in the Student Involvement office.

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TRIVIA QUESTION:

**WHAT'S WHITE, BLACK AND RED ALL OVER?**

ANSWER: THE TROPOLITAN

**BE SCENE**

MAKE YOUR STATEMENT KNOWN, BECAUSE COLLEGE DOESN'T LAST FOREVER...FOR MOST

## Group works for social liberties *Snow day 2014*

**Kelsey Vickers**  
Perspectives Editor

A relatively new organization on campus is looking to make their mark on Troy University's campus.

Students for Liberty, an organization whose mission is to provide a student-driven forum of students dedicated to liberty, promotes economic and social freedom as well as promoting the slogan "Free People, Free Markets."

The organization is currently working on raising funds for its biggest trip of the year, the International Students for Liberty Conference.

The conference, which takes place Feb. 14-16 in Washington D.C., gives liberty-driven students all over the world an opportunity to come together and get more involved with the liberty movement.

At this conference, the students gather for a weekend of learning about liberty from contemporary leaders and prominent figures in the libertarian society, discussing the promotion of liberty on campus, and enjoying a massive celebration of freedom.

Ana-Shea Fann, a senior economics major from Muskegon, Mich. and Students for Liberty Campus Coordinator for the state of Alabama, said

that the conference is a great opportunity for all students.

"It's not only a chance to learn about a vast number of subjects, but also a great conference to network in," she said. "I actually got an internship out of my attendance at the ISFLC in 2012, and I had one of the best times of my life meeting people from all over the world."

The first SFL conference took place in 2008 with roughly 100 attendees. In 2013, the ISFLC featured over 1,400 attendees.

The conference will feature a live taping of the John Stossel show, who is the most recognizable libertarian spokesman alive today.

Among their other events, Students for Liberty has a School Choice event set for Jan. 30 this semester, which is an educational policy based on allowing students and their families their choice of public or private school.

Fann said this event is also crucial for the organization.

"School Choice is a huge issue for the state of Alabama, and one that legislators are taking seriously," she said. "In 2013, the Alabama Accountability Act was passed which allows families that have students in chronically failing schools to move out of



Tabitha Mixon photos

**Brad McGlawn** a senior computer science major from Alabaster and tells students about the importance of liberty.

those schools.

School Choice, as a broad spectrum movement, is one of the best ways to provide upward mobility for children in impoverished areas, and over time it benefits society immensely to have a more well-educated population. We're holding this event at Troy because School Choice offers a better future for everyone, and we want people to be informed about it so that we can be part of creating

a real positive change for society."

Students for Liberty also has plans to collaborate with a number of organizations on campus, including the Spectrum Alliance, Women's Initiative and the Environmental Club.

The weekly meetings for Students for Liberty are scheduled for Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Johnson Center Library in Bibb Graves for the current semester.



Jennifer Carlisle photo

**Taylor Hartshorn**, a freshman economics major from Rossville, Kansas, takes on the hill on a surf board.



Jennifer Carlisle photo

Left to Right: **Douglas Dyer** and **Matt Wheeler** play Ultimate Frisbee during their snow day.

## Student track star inspired by coaches to lead

**Alyse Nelson**  
Staff Writer

She did not seriously consider Troy while she was picking out her dream university when she was in high school.

But, after receiving a track scholarship from a university in South Carolina she applied to Troy under the urging of her mother who is a Troy graduate. She got in and this, she said was "not her plan," but rather "God's plan."

Tiffany Slater, a senior broadcast journalism major from Columbus, Ga., continued her track career as a walk-on during her freshman year at Troy University and went on to gain a track scholarship for the following years.

"My proudest moment (at Troy) would probably be competing at the outdoor Sun Belt Conference Championship my freshman year," Slater said.

She explained that after competing and scoring she was eligible to receive a track scholarship.

"I come from a single parent household and college costs a lot of money, so I felt like I made my mom proud and my family proud," Slater said.

Slater explained how she began running track.

"I started running track in the 7th grade," she said.

I tried out for the basketball team. Me and my momma came back to check the list and my name was not on it. At the bottom a name had been whited out - I

looked at the back of the thin sheet of paper and it was my name.

That same year I tried out for track and I made the track team and I played through middle school and high school."

Though Slater does not take all the credit for ending up at Troy, she has not regretted the decision.

"My favorite thing about Troy is the environment," Slater said. "We have small classrooms, so I can interact with my teachers. Our track team is not too big or small, so our coach can work with us individually. At other universities I would not have this opportunity."

Today, Slater is a 400 meter sprinter, as well as running the 4x400 relay, as she has for the duration of her time at Troy.

"My freshman year, I ran on the 4x400 relay team, and we placed at the Sun Belt Conference," Slater said. "Junior year I ran on the 4x400 and we placed at conference. The other track meets don't count, sadly."

"Teamwork is really big, especially when it comes to the 4x4. You have to trust each other, you have to know when the other person is coming in and when to take off," Slater says of her involvement on the track team.

"I've always been a team player in everything. It's a great feeling running with three other girls because you're motivating each other and pushing other and you're not just focused on yourself. On a team you have to work together to get that low time you want," Slater states

with a smile. "This year I'm on a team with a junior and two freshmen, so they look up to me and I like teaching them."

"She is very active on campus," said Jill Lancaster, the head coach of track and field at Troy, of Slater.

"Being here I've been able to hold several leadership positions," Slater adds.

Currently, Slater is the president of both the University Activity Council and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

She is also the vice president of the Miss Elite Society on campus and the public relations chair for the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

As a senior graduating in July, though, her time here at Troy is drawing to a close. She is happy to be ending her undergraduate career on a positive note.

"We've have some more challenging workouts this year, which is good, because it means we will perform better," Slater says of her final track season.

"I didn't have the confidence as a freshman and sophomore," Slater said.

My coach always told me I could do it and I could be up there with the other girls. I'm trusting in myself, in my workouts, in God, so I'm performing better this year than I have in my previous years."

After graduation, Slater plans to head immediately to graduate school.

"I'm going for speech pathology. I applied in December and I find out in March where I will go. I applied to UGA,

Georgia State and Auburn. Whoever accepts me, I'm going with it."

She said her dream is to invest in children like so many people that invested in her life.

"I want to work with kids because when I was in elementary school I had a speech pathologist since I couldn't pronounce certain words," she said.

And just as she has been encouraged and coached throughout her life by others, Slater wants to return the favor to others. "I would like to work there because you can really see the progress."



**Tiffany Slater**

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### Sudoku

Last week's  
Solutions

How to play:

Simply fill in the blank spaces with the numbers 1 to 9. Every row, column and 3-by-3 box must contain all nine digits with no number repeated. The Sudoku puzzle consists of 81 squares divided into nine 3-by-3 blocks.

Some of the squares already have numbers in them.

To solve a Sudoku puzzle you have to use the numbers 1 to 9 to fill in the blank spaces so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 square has all the numbers 1 to 9 appearing once. Some puzzles are quite simple to solve while others are very tricky.

The only thing you need to solve a Sudoku number place puzzle is logic. You don't need any mathematical knowledge.

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

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

## SAVE Project counters counseling myths



April Irvin photo

Troy student receives advice from another student on how to deal with a family conflict.

**Ngoc Vo**  
Staff Writer

Counselors can help students deal with issues related to anxiety, relationship problems, making life adjustments, depression and other emotional hardships according to Counselor Fran Scheel.

She is a counselor at the Student Counseling Center, Sexual Assault and Violence Education Project (SAVE) where students can seek free counseling.

Scheel offers students insight into the highs and lows of counseling by addressing what onlinepsychologydegree.net says are the top eight myths about counseling through a Q&A interview.

**Q** Is counseling just for people who are mentally ill?

**A** No. While counseling is one type of treatment for people with a mental illness, many people can get a lot from counseling at some time in his or her life. Seeing a counselor may help you gain insight or a healthier perspective about a problem or keep an issue from getting worse.

**Q** If I seek counseling will people think of me as weak?

**A** Actually, counseling is a sign of strength. It demonstrates that you

are invested in taking care of your well-being and are not afraid to ask for help in doing so.

**Q** Will my professors, friends and school administrators find out that I went to counseling?

**A** No. Information shared in counseling sessions will remain private. However, there are a few exceptions to confidentiality such as being in imminent danger of harming yourself or others.

**Q** Is it the counselor's job to just tell me what to do?

**A** This is a common misconception. Counselors are not advice givers. A counselor will offer you support and help you explore options to reach a resolution to your problem.

**Q** I'm afraid that the counselor won't understand me due to differences in ethnicity and experience. Is that a logical fear?

**A** Counselors may not share your same background and experience. However, counselors are trained to be culturally sensitive, non-judgmental and accepting regardless of your ethnicity and life experience.

**Q** I've heard that counseling doesn't work. What can you tell me about that?

**A** Counseling does not work for everyone. There is work and consistency required on the client's part in order to get the most benefit out of coun-

seling and for it to be effective.

**Q** Some people say that I could become too dependent on the counselor. Is this a real worry?

**A** An ultimate goal of counseling is to become more self-reliant in your ability to cope and problem solve. Your counselor will work with you to set boundaries in order to avoid dependency.

**Q** Another common stigma of counseling is that it changes who you are forever. What can you say about that one?

**A** It depends on your situation. Attending counseling has the potential for life-long positive change.

**Q** What problems have you seen students encounter? Has counseling helped?

**A** Some of the common problems that students experience are issues related to adjusting to college life, stress, anxiety, depression, grief, family problems, relationship problems, etc. The majority of clients express that counseling was helpful.

**Q** How do counseling services work for at Troy University?

**A** To see a counselor you can call the Student Counseling Center at 334-670-3700 to schedule an appointment. Counseling services are free to students currently enrolled in at least 1 credit hour on-site at Troy University's Troy campus.

## LARPing Guild offers creative escape from reality

**Taylor Foxx**  
Staff Writer

For students at Troy University, the newly-formed Live Action Role-Playing (LARP) Guild provides an outlet for creativity, adventure and fellowship.

"Do you like the world you live in?" said Brandon Leard, a sophomore computer science major from Panama City Beach, Fla.,

A world where chivalry is dead, nobody cares about anyone that they don't personally know and society tells you how to act, what to do and what you will be? I don't. I hate it. The Troy University LARPing Guild provides an escape."

According to Princeton.edu, LARP is defined as "a form of role-playing where the participants physically act out their character's actions."

The first LARPing events began in the 1970s and drew their inspiration from role-playing board games but spread to incorporate fiction genres such as medieval, fantasy or apocalyptic.

From its humble beginnings, LARPing has grown to include tens of thousands of participants all over North America, Australia and Europe.

The Troy University LARPing Guild was the creation of Leard and two of his close friends: Zeth Vilardo, a sophomore biology major from Celebration, Fla., and Scottie Moore, a sophomore music industry major from Arton.

The idea to create a LARPing

organization was partly inspired by Vilardo's visit to Florida State University in mid spring of 2013. There, Vilardo had the opportunity to participate in university weekend event.

"After going to the event at Florida State, I thought 'I really need to get involved with LARPing,'" Vilardo said.

I got some pointers from some of the veteran guys at the event on how to get (an organization) started."

In the beginning of the fall term, Vilardo, Leard and Moore began to work on creating the group's constitution.

The group was approved by the SGA on Oct. 15.

Abby Smith, a junior elementary education major from Panama City Beach, Fla., is the newest member of the leadership team.

During group events, Abby is Aisri, a tree nymph from the North of Troy who runs a small shop that sells potions, spells and costume accessories.

"I love LARPing so much because it really lets me be a different person for a little while," said Abby.

It's almost an escape from reality for a little bit. It also allows me to be creative in the aspect that I love to sew and do crafts, and so I handmade my entire costume."

Troy's LARPing Guild held one event last semester and recently held their first spring event, "The Grand Tournament", on Jan. 22 in the North Quad. The event had 20 student participants.

For some, this organization is an

opportunity to leave a legacy.

"I honestly hope to leave something behind," Vilardo said.

The best thing you can do as a person or student at this university is leave behind something others can enjoy."

Troy's LARP Guild has a partnership with the Troy University "Humans vs Zombies" group and desires to help both groups succeed on campus.

The guild's next event will be held on Feb. 22 and the organization highly recommends newcomers to see what an event is like.

"I really would encourage students to consider the LARPing Guild," Leard said. "If students would try out just one event, I guarantee they will come back."

Those interested in participating can find more information about the Troy University LARPing Guild by liking their page on Facebook, or by contacting Vilardo at zvilard@troy.edu.



Rebecca Armstrong photo

Joshua Walters walks forward to crown Phillip Johnson as "King of the Quad" during the Winterfest event held on Jan. 22, 2014.



Rebecca Armstrong photo

Left to Right: Phillip Johnson and Sean Harper spar for the title of "King of the Quad" during the LARPing Guild's Winterfest.

Winterfest 2014 consisted of a sparring competition and other role-playing activities. The event was held on the back quad near the Trojan Center.

**CRUNCH 'n BUNCH**

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**SUBWAY**

**CHICKEN ENCHILADA**



Seth Nicholson

## ‘Students for Campus Carry’ organization denied by SGA

David Hudman

I started Students for Campus Carry at Troy University during the fall 2013 semester.

I wanted to use this group to change the current policy at Troy University that infringes on the inalienable right of students, faculty, staff and visitors to keep and bear arms.

Under Alabama law, the Alabama state legislature is the only entity allowed to regulate firearms.

I recognized that Troy University is overstepping their authority and wanted to raise awareness about this issue.

While I was building support for my group, I met a lot of students who agreed with my idea that students should not lose their rights when they come onto a college campus.

I also said that Troy University would not be the only university to allow students to carry guns on campus.

Utah’s state legislature passed a law that specifically protects the right of students to keep and bear arms on campus and prevents state universities from infringing on this right in any way.

Interestingly, there have not been any shootings at public universities in Utah.

I applied to become a recognized student organization at the end of fall 2013.

Our constitution was received before the last

meeting, so it would be placed on docket and voted on during the next meeting in January.

Before the first meeting in January, I received a call from the SGA president who asked that I wait a week for our group’s vote in order to respect the students who were victims of gun-related tragedies over the break.

I complied with this request to wait one week. On Jan. 21, the Troy University SGA refused to recognize our group by a 14-12 vote.

During the debate, there were no negative comments and we were given no reason for our rejection. My video of this meeting has received over 900 views on YouTube.

On Jan. 27, I submitted my appeal letter to Senior Vice Chancellor Dew.

I received a personal email within 30 minutes that our group was approved on the basis of free speech.

While I understand that gun-related issues bring about emotional responses, I wish that there was honest debate at the SGA meeting where I could defend my ideas.

With the help of others, I will continue to raise awareness about issues like these and raise awareness for Adam Kokesh who was wrongfully imprisoned for loading a shotgun in Washington, D.C., even though the gun ban in Washington, D.C., was proved to be unconstitutional.

## Traveling ‘preacher’ causes controversy on campus; Christians must evaluate judgment

Taylor Foxx  
Staff Writer

It has only been a week since traveling “preacher” Chris LePelley’s visit, and the dust is just beginning to settle.

Amidst the firestorm of video, Facebook and blog posts, I have seen countless questions about how to view this traveling preacher who preached hate, legalism and judgment.

I expect almost all rejected his message, but understanding why we should reject him is key.

This is where we must strip the sheep’s clothing from the back of this wolf.

First, like David Maddaloni, senior graphic arts major from Elba, rightly pointed out in his counter-protest sign, “Carrying a Bible doesn’t make you a good Christian.”

I would add that carrying a Bible and memorizing Scripture doesn’t even make you a Christian, period.

Though this man, a so-called “preacher,” could quote Scripture at length, this doesn’t

actually mean much at all.

Even Satan can quote the Bible at length and do so in a non-biblical way (Matthew 4:5-7).

The words don’t make the message. Relationship makes the message.

This is the core of Christianity: a relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is through relationship that any of His words can be understood.

Misquotation is the manipulator’s best weapon. Context and relationship is the best defense.

The man spoke of impending judgment and pointed out, at length, the categories of sinners that surrounded him.

He was quick to judge those around him for the sins that he assumed he knew.

The student who spoke against him was a false prophet, doomed for judgment.

The student who had a nose ring was doomed for judgment, though she said nothing.

Ironically, the student with a tattoo was doomed before he spoke, even though his tattoo was the Greek word for “saved.”

LePelley was quick to do that which Jesus did not even do.

When Jesus came to earth, he himself said he did not come to judge the world but to save it (John 3:17).

Jesus desired to see no man perish or be judged (2 Peter 3:9).

Jesus even loved us enough to be the substitution for the judgment we faced (1 Peter 2:24).

Doesn’t exactly sound like LePelley, does it?

What is present with Jesus and missing with LePelley is love.

True love for those who need it most.

Love desires the best for others.

As startling as it may sound, love even hates at times.

Love hates those things that destroy us, take us captive and master us.

Love hates murder because it destroys life.

Love hates lies for it destroys trust. Love hates adultery because it destroys relationships.

Would we not hate the bottle if we saw alcohol destroy the life of a dear friend?

It is our love for that person that drives us to hate.

We do not and cannot hate people.

We, as Christians, hate sin, but because it leads to pain and separation: emotionally, physically, psychologically and spiritually.

As Christians, we should be known for our unconditional love for sinners and saints, but we can only truly love if we allow ourselves to hate.

Love should guide our words.

I realized a couple years ago that showing love is much more important than being right.

Truth is important, but, without love, truth is impotent (1 Corinthians 13:1-2).

Christians, love and let your love be guided by truth.

And for those who may not call themselves Christians, remember the words of John 13:35: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

## Fellow students urged to enhance insight on First Amendment right

*Constitutional rights and freedom of speech vital for student knowledge*

Jacob Cook

With the buzz around campus being the infamous hate-spewing preacher on the quad, perhaps it’s time for a discussion of rights and liberties, with a special concentration on local and national events.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution, included in the Bill of Rights by our Founding Fathers as an inalienable right, reads as follows:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Troy University’s student handbook, The Oracle, offers the following concerning freedom of speech:

“Students at public universities enjoy robust speech rights under the Constitution in order to contribute to the marketplace of ideas, learn from each other, and freely discuss and debate a wide range of issues.

Troy University is committed to protecting the freedom of speech for students, faculty and staff and will not infringe on speech that may be considered an unpopular or inconvenient expression of ideas.”

It may surprise you to know that a group of students and faculty recently had their First Amendment rights repressed at the hands of the Student Government Association.

Students for Campus Carry, whose stated purpose is “to advocate for the Second Amendment rights of students and faculty to be protected on campus just as they are off campus, and to advocate for changes to university

policy if the university infringes on these rights.”

Note that the group does not advocate violating the current administration’s rules and packing heat on campus but rather discussion and conversation about rights and liberties.

The group’s constitution was rejected in a recent SGA meeting in a 14-12 vote.

Plans to appeal the decision have been made by the group.

This will come as no surprise, though, if you look at other events around Alabama and the rest of the country.

Alabama blogger Roger Shuler has been jailed since October after writing defamatory statements about lawmakers and policymakers he deemed corrupt and hypocritical.

On the national level, Dinesh D’Souza, director of the critical documentary “Obama 2016,”

was recently arrested for allegedly giving too much money to Wendy Long’s New York senatorial campaign.

This has been deemed to be a politically motivated criminalization of dissent by many pundits.

Fellow students, I urge you to look at the Constitution and understand that inalienable rights are given to you upon birth and cannot be taken away by anyone, under any circumstances.

If you allow your rights to be given by an administration or a government, they can be taken away.

Is it not the purpose of a university to discuss new ideas and experiences, as well as to compare and contrast your beliefs against ones you are unfamiliar with?

This cannot be done when First Amendment rights are repressed.

### EDITORIAL POLICIES

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

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

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

#### Guest Columns

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

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

#### Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

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

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

### THE TROY UNIVERSITY TROPOLITAN

#### Troy University’s Student Newspaper

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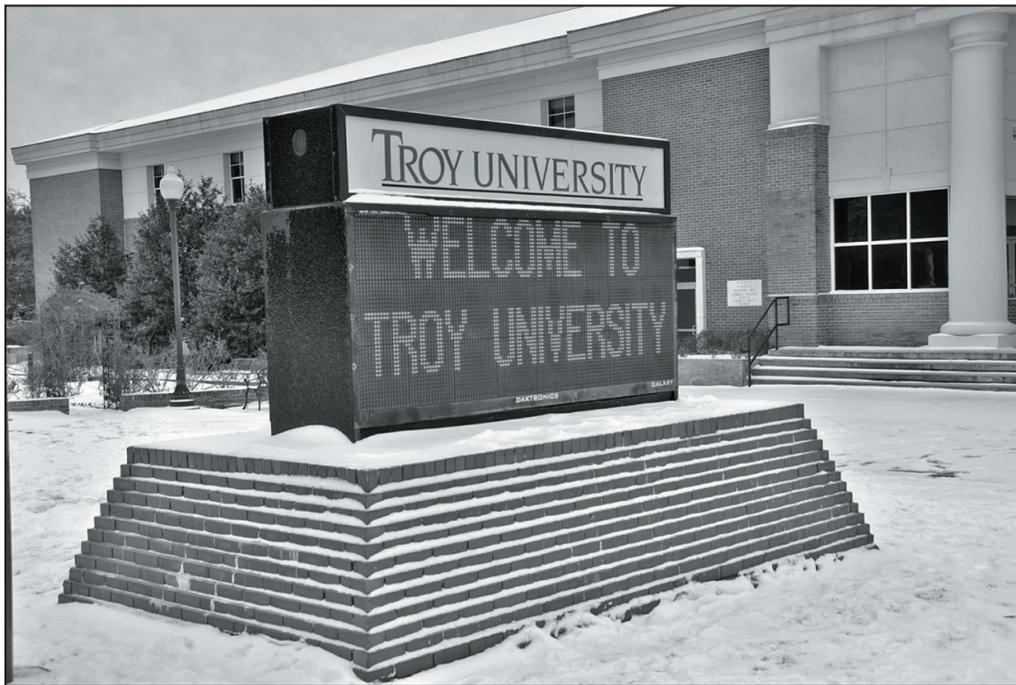
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## Do you want to build a snowman?



April Irvin photo

Troy University campus was covered in snow and ice Tuesday through Thursday. Students made their own fun with homemade sleds and snowball fights to pass the time until class resumed.

**Laura Hutto**  
Copy Editor

Snow and ice closed Troy University for three days this week.

Unfortunately, this meant that nobody could drive, meaning food and other commodities were hard to come by. Some turned to walking to places that remained open to get food.

It seemed as though it was going to be a tough week. This did not stop Troy students from finding entertainment in the unusually wintry weather, which lasted through Thursday.

Activities began Tuesday night as the first snowflakes fell on campus. In no time, students emerged from their dorms and apartments and began to enjoy the snow.

There did not seem to be an unoccupied hill on campus as they were filled with students and sleds. Students proved their creativity with these makeshift sleds, which were made from ironing boards, cardboard boxes, plastic bins and their lids, laundry baskets, swimming pools and more.

"Most folks were on yoga mats, cardboard and plastic tub lids. My weapon of choice was the kiddie pool. I was also armed with a Socker Bopper on my right to protect some fingers that are still recovering from surgery," said

Josh Harrison, senior Spanish major from Prattville.

Students also made art during the snow days.

Snowmen, snow angels and many snow drawings decorated the campus and many cars. Harrison also contributed to the art.

"We made a 5-foot snowman and named him Jefferson Snow-Dayvis," Harrison said.

Some students on Troy's baseball and softball teams even decorated their snowman in Troy apparel. They represented the baseball coach by decorating the snowman in a No. 9 baseball jersey, a clock and baseball bats.

"The number nine on the jersey represents Coach Smartt. The time on the clock is a symbol Coach Smartt uses for running bases," said Wes Fortson, sophomore business management major from Pell City and one of the baseball team's managers.

One of the more popular spots for snow art and entertainment was the Trojan Arena.

"We came together at the Trojan Arena to have fun. It was a cool bonding experience outside the classroom," said Brittany Threats, freshman biology education major from Eufaula.

One of the activities that brought students together was snowball fights. These were happening all over campus on both Tuesday and Wednesday and everyone who found themselves outside was included. The baseball team also got involved.

"Some members of the team got into a truck and drove around campus throwing snowballs at people and starting snowball fights," Fortson said.

The fun was not only limited to snow related activities as some students also played Ultimate Frisbee. One student involved was Doug Dyer, junior biomedical sciences major from Frostproof, Fla.

"We played on the band field Wednesday afternoon. The cold wasn't too bad especially since we were running around. Some guys even played in shorts," Dyer said.

The fun ended as the snow and ice began to melt and normal Troy University life began again today. Even though the snow fun ended, students created long lasting memories this week that will carry on throughout the years.

## Troy students enjoy school cancellation by playing in snow



April Irvin and Wes Fortson photos

Left: Baseball and softball players built a snowman representation of baseball coach Mark Smartt. Top right: Students Courtney Patterson and Emily Thomasson sat in laundry baskets in front of Bibb Graves. Bottom right: Brittany Threats and Olivia Crawford sled behind Adams Administration.

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1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

**THE NUT JOB**  
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:25

**FROZEN**  
1:05, 4:05, 7:05

**THE LEGEND OF HERCULES**  
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45

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

## Troy struggles to break four-game skid on the road

**Ryan Lee**  
Staff Writer

The Troy men's basketball team has dropped two more games on the road this past weekend. The University of Texas-Arlington slipped by with a win on Thursday, Jan. 23, 59-56, while Texas State played more aggressively beating the Trojans with a win 73-65 on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The Trojans are now 7-13 and ninth in the conference following a four game losing streak.

The game against UTA was a nail-biter all the way through. At the end of the first half UT Arlington led by just two points, while only outscoring the Trojans by one the next half. The Mavericks senior guard Reger Dowell sealed the game with a last second 3-pointer made it.

Troy shot just at 34 percent for field goals for the game with 18 of the 53 sinking. In comparison, UT Arlington shot a little better with a 37.7 percent on their field goals.

The luck at the 3-point line was a little better for the Trojans. They scored 8-23, earning 34.8 percent

accuracy beyond the arc. However, the men of UT Arlington struggled a little bit at the 3-point line only shooting 8-31, only 25.8 percent.

Fouls seemed to play a crucial role in the development and result of the game. The Trojans only gave up eight free throws, which UT Arlington capitalized on 5-8, but the Trojans received 20 free throws and only scored 12-20 making their rate 60 percent.

The high scorers of the night were senior guards Hunter Williams and Jeff Mullahey both putting up numbers in the double digits, 14 and 12 points respectively.

Several other Trojans lit up the scoreboard throughout the night, and out of the nine players that got playing time; six scored at least 5 points.

The road game at San Marcos was a little bit more one-sided against the Trojans. Texas State pulled a comfortable win out over Troy 73-65. The Trojans had a 38 percent shooting rate for field goals, sinking only 19-50, while Texas State had a 51.9 percent rate, making 28-54.

Even though the 3-pointers were sinking often in the first half, Troy's

percentage dropped to 42.9 percent for the game.

With Texas State shooting 31.3 percent from the 3-point line, the Trojans beat them in that category, but the field goals were too much for the Trojans to overcome. Texas State outscored Troy 36-32 in the first half and 37-33 in the second.

Yet again, the Trojans had several opportunities at free throws, and even though Troy capitalized much better against Texas State, they came up just a little bit short of the win.

Troy made 18-26 of their free throws, nine of which came from redshirt senior forward/center Wes Hinton, who had a career high 24 points. Texas State made 12-17 of their free throws.

The Trojans seemed to be able to score well with seven of the nine players receiving floor time scoring some amount of points.

Williams finished the night with 18 points and senior forward Tevin Calhoun also scored double digits with 11 points.

The next game for the Troy men's basketball team will be Saturday, Feb. 1, in the Trojan Arena at 7:30 p.m.



Jason Hamilton, the newly appointed head women's soccer coach replacing Chris Bentley, was an assistant coach for the Florida Gators and worked with the goalkeepers, team defending, and focused on team set pieces.

## New Troy head soccer coach named

**Jill Odom**  
Sports Editor

Troy named their new women's soccer head coach, Jason Hamilton, on Monday, Jan. 27, after previous head coach Chris Bentley accepted a position with Colorado State the past week.

Bentley was head coach for Troy for six seasons and the team posted the best six season winning span in program history.

Hamilton spent the past season as an assistant coach with the Florida Gators and focused on training goalkeepers and defense.

Athletics Director John Hartwell, who announced the hiring of Hamilton, was pleased with the selection and is optimistic for the program's future.

"Jason emerged as the very best of a very good candidate pool," Hartwell said. "We believe he has all the right tools and experience to lead our soccer program to consistent finishes in the top of the Sun Belt Conference standing and compete for conference championships."

Hamilton has been an assistant for the Boston Breakers of the National Women's Soccer League and worked his way through the ranks at the University of Miami for two years.

In 2012, he was able to help the Hurricanes have one of its most successful seasons in program history, setting records in shutouts, fewest goals against, and conference shutouts.

As a player, Hamilton has played as a midfielder for Macomb College in Michigan and a goalkeeper during his sophomore and junior years at the University of Detroit Mercy. His senior year he was a captain and moved back onto the field.

After college, he played four seasons as a defender for the Windsor Border Stars in the Canadian Professional Soccer League. During his time with the team, it won two Canada Cup Championships.

"I want to thank athletic director John Hartwell and Dr. Hawkins for the opportunity to join the Troy family. It is truly an honor for me to be the head coach of the women's soccer program and part of such a great university," Hamilton said. "With a talented group of returning players who gained experience this past season and the support shown by the athletic department, I am excited for the future of our program and its success in the Sun Belt Conference."



April Irvin photo

Senior guard Hunter Williams scored double digits against both UT Arlington and Texas State. He made 5 out of 9 3-pointers against the Mavericks and 3 out of 8 3-pointers during the Texas State.

## Both tennis teams lose on the road

**Wally Pendergrass**  
Staff Writer

Both the Trojan men's and women's tennis teams were unable to come up with wins against ranked opponents this past weekend.

The women's team fell in a close match full of suspense to No. 74 Georgia State, 4-3, on Saturday, Jan. 25. The men's team lost 6-1 to No. 70 Tulane the same day. The early season has been tough for both teams and this weekend's road trip was a continuation of the Trojans struggles.

The women's match did not start well for the Trojans as they fell behind 3-0 after losing the doubles point and two singles matches. The Trojans would come storming back though as Anja Cosovic, Tranq Huynh, and Margot De Haan got wins tying the match at 3-3.

The Trojans would ultimately not be able to win the final game and lost the match 4-3. It was Georgia State's first official match of the season and they will start with a 1-0(1-0) record. It was Troy's first conference game and the loss moves the Trojans to 1-3(0-1) on the season.

The women's team will travel to play No. 23 Auburn on Saturday, Feb. 1. The women's first home match is against Florida A&M on Sunday, Feb. 2.

The men's team lost its fifth straight match and the fourth to a ranked opponent. The Trojans weren't able to get any momentum in the match against the No. 70 Tulane Green Wave, losing by a final score of 6-1.

Trojans Sami Ghorbel and Mansingh Athare were able to hold the No. 38 ranked doubles team of Sebastian Rey and Alex Van Cott from Tulane to a 3-3 score, but Troy would lose the other two doubles matches giving Tulane the doubles point and a 1-0 lead.

Daniel Bustamante would pick up the only point for the Trojans, winning his match 6-2, 0-6, 6-2. His win came after the Trojans had fallen behind 5-0.

The Trojans have had a very demanding schedule early on this season. It has included road trips to No. 33 Alabama, No. 36 Florida State, No. 28 Auburn, and most recently this past weekend at No. 70 Tulane.

The men's team will have 13 days off to prepare for its next match, which is the first home match against Alabama A&M on Feb. 7.



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## Tough luck in overtime against Texas State

Gabe Sadetsky  
Staff Writer

The Lady Trojans were able to continue their winning streak against UT Arlington, 85-62, on Wednesday, Jan. 22, but failed to defeat the Texas State Bobcats in overtime with the final score being 87-82 on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Senior guard Joanna Harden and sophomore guard Ashley Beverly-Kelley were the leading scorers against UTA with 32 and 16 points respectively.

UT Arlington scored more free throws but Troy was able to maintain a healthy lead throughout most of the game thanks to Harden's early scoring in the first half.

The Mavericks had a 28.6 field goal percentage while the Trojans had a total 47.4 percent for the game. Troy outscored UT Arlington 44-24. Neither team was very successful scoring 3-pointers with the Trojans only making seven out of 25 and the Mavericks scoring six out of 25.

On Saturday, the momentum from the previous game wasn't enough as they fell on the road to the Texas State Bobcats in an overtime thriller.

The Bobcats used late scoring runs, both at the end of regulation and overtime, to ruin the Lady Trojan's chances of a three-game winning streak, beating Troy 87-82.

Texas State built a 10-point lead early and saw it dwindle away as Troy took a seven-point lead with only six minutes left in the game.

The Bobcats then went on to tie the game after scoring four unanswered points at the end of regulation. A potential game-ending shot by Harden, which fell short, sent the game to overtime.

The Trojans jumped to an early lead in overtime, only to see the Bobcats, once again, end on a 9-0 scoring run and win the game. Troy now moves to 6-13 overall and 2-6 in conference play. They are currently ranked ninth in the Sun Belt standings.

Harden, despite her inconsistent shooting eight out of 32, led the team in scoring with 21 points. Two other Trojans, sophomore guard Ashley Beverly-Kelley and junior forward Ronita Garrett, finished with double-



Caleb Hicks photo

Senior guard Joanna Harden and sophomore guard Ashley Beverly-Kelley were the key scorers in both the UT Arlington game on Wednesday, Jan. 22, and the Texas State game on Saturday, Jan. 25. Harden scored 32 points against UTA and 21 points against the Bobcats. Beverly-Kelley made 16 baskets during the first game and made a double-double while in San Marcos.

doubles. Garrett also led the team in rebounds with 13.

For Texas State, sophomore guard Erin Peoples led the Bobcats with 22 points. Redshirt junior forward Jacqueline Jeffcoat and senior center Ashley Ezech both ended with double-doubles. Jeffcoat had a team-high 11 rebounds while Ezech also snatched three steals.

Troy finished the day shooting 38.7 percent (23.5 percent from three-point-range) while gaining a total

of 56 rebounds, 19 on offense and 37 on defense. Foul trouble plagued Troy the entire game, giving Texas State a total of 42 free-throw attempts, 13 of those coming in overtime.

The Trojans will return home Saturday, Feb. 1, against Sun Belt leader Arkansas State. Tip-off is set for 5:15 p.m. in Trojan Arena. They will also play against South Alabama on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 5:15 p.m. at home.

## New season brings new power hitters

Amy Austin  
Staff Writer

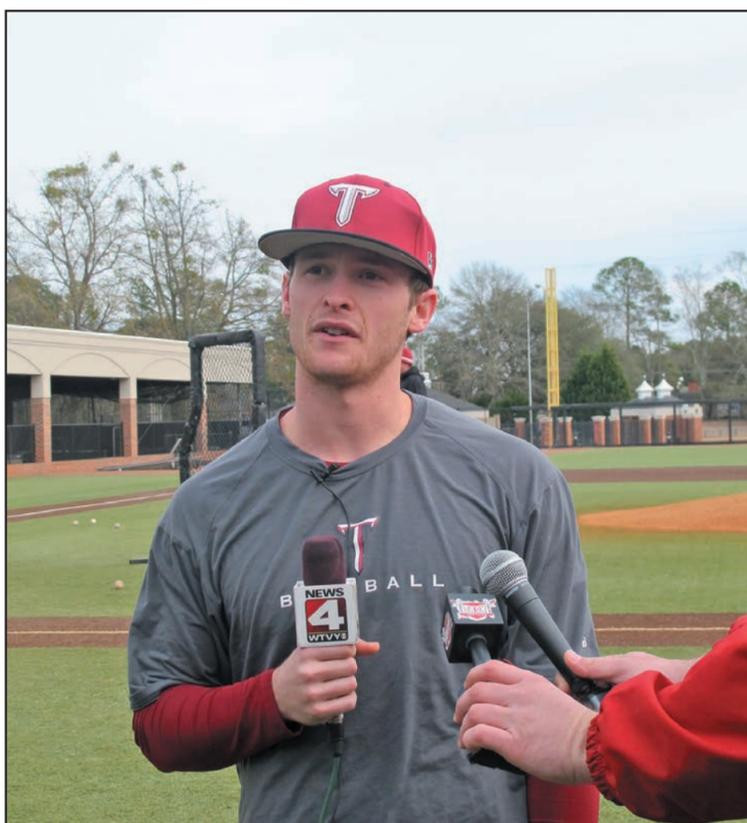
Being the defending Sun Belt Conference Champions who finished in the top 25 in the country is a momentum push for the Troy University Baseball team heading into the first day of spring practice.

After losing a large senior class in 2013 and multiple players to the MLB draft, questions arose about the challenge of how to match last season's offensive statistics. Players such as Danny Collins, Trae Santos, and Logan Pierce were key hitters in the lineup last year, leaving big shoes that need to be filled.

Returning lead-off hitter and pre-season All-American, Tyler Vaughn, led the Trojans in runs scored and at-bats in his 2013 season with Troy. He finished last season as the second toughest player to strike out in the nation.

"I think as a lead-off hitter, my job is just to get on base, whether that's with Santos and Logan Pierce and Danny Collins behind me, or different teammates like Nick Masonia, Trevin Hall and David Hill," said Vaughn, a senior infielder. "Regardless, I think I've just got to be on base; put some pressure on the defense, put some pressure on the pitcher, and hopefully touch home as much as I can."

New team members looking to play a big role in the Trojans offensive stats are junior infielders Nick Masonia, Trevin Hall and junior outfielder David Hall.



Hannah Crews photo

Senior infielder Tyler Vaughn talked to the media on Friday, Jan. 24 at Riddle-Pace Field about the new hitters the team has acquired. Opening Day Troy will play against Northern Kentucky on Feb. 14, at 6 p.m.

Each of these players came from junior colleges where they each hit over .300 at the plate.

Another key hitter for the Trojan offense is senior catcher Justin Hancock. Hancock finished last season with a .300 batting average. He also had a .410 on-base percentage and a .460 slugging percentage.

"The pressure situations, that's what you dream of as a kid, bottom of the ninth, you're down by one run, you got to have one to score, full count, two outs... I mean that's the situation that you're looking for," Hancock said. "I hope we have a lot of people that can fill those shoes and not just me."

The coaching staff has realized they have lost key hitters in their lineup but know that is always a challenge as coaches. Their next goal is to get other players ready.

"Realistically, I don't know that we can look to lead the country in doubles like we did last year, be in the top 10 in most every offensive category, when in fact there are so many new names in the lineup," said head coach Bobby Pierce. "But that's our challenge as coaches, that's what we take on, and that goes back to August when we got our new group in and start working from that point to this point trying to make that happen."

Pierce, along with the coaches and players, is ready to embark on the 2014 season and knows that with each new season comes a completely new team.

Baseball and softball fan day will be in Trojan Arena between basketball games on Feb. 1

### Baseball Home Schedule

 vs Northern Kentucky 2/14 7:30 p.m. 2/15 2/16	 vs Louisiana-Lafayette 4/4 7:30 p.m. 4/5 4/6
 vs Central Michigan 2/21 7:30 p.m. 2/22 2/23	 vs Alabama A&M 4/9 7:30 p.m.
 vs Samford 3/4 7:30 p.m.	 vs Western Kentucky 4/11 7:30 p.m. 4/12 4/13
 vs New Orleans 3/7 7:30 p.m. 3/8 3/9	 vs UT Arlington 4/25 7:30 p.m. 4/26 4/27
 vs Jacksonville State 3/18 7:30 p.m.	 vs UAB 4/29 7:30 p.m.
 vs Alabama State 3/19 7:00 p.m.	 vs South Alabama 5/15 7:30 p.m. 5/16 5/17
 vs ULM 3/21 7:00 p.m. 3/22 3/23	

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