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TROPOLITAN

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Chinese New Year at Troy

Trojan students come together to celebrate the year of the horse with feast, dance



Visarut Pawawongsak photo

The Troy University Chinese Students and Scholars Association celebrated the Chinese New Year on Friday. Xi Huang (above), a junior accounting major from Guilin, China, performs a traditional dance at Troy University's Chinese New Year celebration, in which many students representing various cultures came together to ring in the year of the horse. The event included Chinese dishes and entertainment representing the Chinese culture.

S.A.V.E. Project name is changed

Cassie Gibbs
Staff Writer

The S.A.V.E. Project and Personal Counseling Office recently changed their name to the Student Counseling Center and split into two divisions.

Miranda Carlee, a junior psychology major from Chelsea and the peer educator at the Student Counseling Center, said that the name of the center was changed to help Troy students know what services the organization offered.

"We wanted the name to simply explain what our office does, and that is to provide counseling for students dealing with mental health issues," Carlee said.

The Student Counseling Center offers counseling services to Troy students that are enrolled in at least a 1 credit hour on-campus course here at Troy.

Students are given a maximum of 10 sessions per semester to meet with

See **Counseling**, page 2



Caleb Hicks photo

The Personal Counseling Office recently changed its name to Student Counseling Center, to promote its true purpose.

Executive candidates for SGA announced

Chase Robinson
Copy editor

Candidates for the upcoming executive elections were announced at Tuesday's meeting of the Student Government Association.

The candidates are Faith Mote and Will Thompson for president; Blake Crew and Jorge Solis for vice president of legislative affairs; Heath Barton for vice president of campus activities; Kendall Carbonie and Zahra Qureshi for secretary; and Ryan Cole

and Garret Bode for Clerk.

The elections will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the SGA office.

The SGA also welcomed new senators Carmen Boothe, Courtney McDonald, Kyle Singletary, Will Black, Sarah Beth Gilley, Farrah Gaston, Emily Armstrong, Mary Jones, Katie Turner and Raza Razai.

The new senators will be sworn in at next week's meeting.

VPLA Trip Hubbard's appointment of Katie Pouncey to

the position of Women's History Month coordinator was approved.

According to Hubbard the coordinator helps organize the Outstanding Women's Banquet.

A change to the senate election laws was also approved. Applications to run are now due three business days before the election rather than eight calendar days.

At next week's meeting the SGA will address a resolution to deal with parking for next year.

University helps military veterans, families return to civilian lifestyle

Staff Report

In May of 2013, Troy University was designated the first Purple Heart University in the U.S. The Purple Heart is a United States military honor awarded to those who have been wounded or killed while serving.

For 40 years, the Pike County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program has volunteered their services and are now focusing on the following areas: disaster preparedness and response, education, community and economic development, health and nutrition, homeland security and a new area for veterans and military families.

RSVP is sponsored in part by a grant from the Corporation of National and Community Service.

Through Troy University, RSVP will now provide service for veterans and military families that will assist participants in improving their ability to thrive independently in the community by integrating returning veterans and supporting their families through life skills and coaching.

The RSVP program will assist with online job searches and applications, provide access to a computer lab with 60 computers, assist with

See **RSVP**, page 2

THURSDAY 51°F 31°F high low	FRIDAY 61°F 42°F high low	SATURDAY 63°F 37°F high low	SUNDAY 58°F 35°F high low	MONDAY 56°F 35°F high low	TUESDAY 61°F 46°F high low	WEDNESDAY 59°F 45°F high low
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Summer Spain program set for May

Grishma Rimal
Staff Writer

The historical city of Granada, Spain is set to host 12 Troy students this summer as the university's study abroad program gears up for yet another excursion to Europe.

The three-week program will begin May 12 and end June 3. Students can earn anywhere from three to six credits registering for SPN 3350, Spanish Culture on Location I and/or SPN 3357, Spanish Culture on Location II.

According to Orlando Pacheco, Troy University's director of study abroad programs who will also be leading the travelling group himself, the city was chosen because of its historical and cultural richness.

"Granada is a bridge between two civilizations-- the European and the Arabic," he said. "It has a lot of Moorish culture and shows the Islamic influence in Spain. So students get an extra flavor, not just that of Spanish."

The students will be living with host families who will also provide their meals. Pacheco added that home stays will enrich their experience as compared to living in a hotel because of how heavily they will be immersed in the city and interacting with the natives.

"I'm most looking forward to getting the exposure of another country and being outside of America since I have never left the States before," said Savannah Hill, a psychology major from Eva, who is attending the trip. Hill also hopes to improve her language skills and mainly develop as an individual by exposing herself to newer things.

Hill, who is also a Spanish minor, says that she chose the program because of her familiarity with the language and the friends she has living in Spain.

The tentative itinerary also includes visits to cities like Seville and Cordoba and notable places such as the Cathedral of Granada, the fortress palace of Alhambra and Sacromonte Abbey where they can view the relics of St. James.

In addition to these visits, Pacheco has also planned a city-wide gymkhana --a race around the city to achieve the fastest time by memorizing the routes-- during their first week. "This will help them to learn about the city and the sooner they get acquainted to the place, the better," he said.

The schedule also includes a free weekend for the attendees to travel on their own, a Flamenco show and if time allows, traditional bullfights.

The students will be taking Spanish classes at an in-

stitute on the weekdays to work on their language skills. On arrival, they will take a Spanish placement test and depending on their proficiency, they will be put in corresponding levels of classes. Pacheco, in fact, recommends that students with little fluency in Spanish apply as he believes that beginners will have a better learning experience studying in an environment where they will be compelled to work on their foreign dialect.

The cost of the trip has been estimated to a total of \$2,610 including room, board, excursions and airfare. However, the Chancellor's Award for Global Competitiveness can provide a \$750 subsidy, reducing the total cost to \$1,860. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is March 15.

Destiny Allen, a sophomore biomedical sciences major from Sylacuga. Another attendee believes that the experience of living and learning in a different environment will be beneficial for her and help her assist in making connections with new people. "I know I will take so many experiences and memory," Allen said. "I know I will be more independent."

Students interested in the program may contact Orlando Pacheco in his office at Bibbs Grave 114.

Teammate passes away



Jennifer Carlisle photo

Brent Hammett (left), a Troy resident, and James Mathews, a junior mathematics major from Phenix City, play a game of Frisbee. Hammett passed away Sunday. His death is currently under investigation. Hammett was a part of the Ultimate Frisbee League in Troy. Monday, friends of Hammett gathered on the band field to play a game of Ultimate Frisbee to commemorate him.

Crime Log

January 26

Theft of Property, Third Degree

Approximately three books, sweatpants, a t-shirt, a gray bookbag, phone charger, shampoo and a key fob were stolen from Trojan Center 224 at 12:30 p.m.

January 30

Domestic Dispute

Domestic dispute reported at 5 p.m. at Franklin Drive Apartments. Victim was female.

Domestic Dispute

Female reported a dispute at Cowart Hall at 9:15 p.m.

January 31,

Damage to property

Yellow police barricade stolen from Pell Ave. at 10:30 p.m.

Counseling,

continued from page 1

a counselor.

"Counseling services may include family problems, stress, depression, anxiety, trouble adjusting to college life, anger management, substance abuse, eating disorders, grief and more," Carlee said.

These services are both free and confidential.

The Student Counseling Center also hosts events throughout the school year to teach students about mental health and other important issues.

On Feb. 25-26, the Student Counseling Center will be giving out information on eating disorders for Eating Disorder

Awareness Week.

The Student Counseling Center will also be hosting multiple events throughout the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness month.

The Student Counseling Center is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Students will need to call to set up an appointment with the center for counseling.

Students can contact the Student Counseling Center at 334-670-3700, or email the center at save@troy.edu.

If anyone would like find out more information about the Student Counseling Center, they can visit the website at trojan.troy.edu/studentcounselingcenter or stop by the Student Counseling Center's office located at 113 College Drive.

RSVP,

continued from page 1

referrals in procurement of benefits, provide resume building skills and development, aid with mock job interviews and any other assistance that can be provided to guide the participant for further needs.

RSVP is currently recruiting volunteers to assist with this new project. For more information or to volunteer with the new veterans and military families project, please call 334-670-3693 January through April or 334-808-6540. For more information on other RSVP projects please call the main RSVP Office at 334-566-6158.

Act Against AIDS



April Irvin photo

Sigma Gamma Rho hosted an AIDS outreach program yesterday. Jessica Coleman (left), a human services major from Brundidge, and Erin Billups (right), a sophomore nursing major from Dothan, offer AIDS information to students in attendance.



Students talk dating culture

Emily Jackson
Features Editor
Ngoc Vo
Staff Writer

Before you go out and spend your refund on peonies and heart-shaped things for the cute French gal or guy in your biology class, you may want to consider his or her point of view.

Last year, Americans spent \$130.97 on average per person, according to CNN Library, but securing a relationship with your crush may not hinge on flowers or candy.

Troy students say that there are varying levels of difference in dating cultures simply based on a student's country of origin.

"We don't even have traditional 'dating' in Germany," said Jana Weißbichnicht, a senior broadcast journalism major from Germany. "We also don't have 'talking'."

Weißbichnicht said that to traditionally begin a relationship with someone from her country "you just start hanging out until you decide that you are dating."

"You don't have to actually talk about it," she said.

"Most of the time it's the first kiss that makes things official. It really depends on the people involved. You don't really ask officially to be someone's girlfriend or boyfriend."

Weißbichnicht's insight on dating had some major differences when in comparison with one American's dating expectations.

"Well, in America usually the guy asks the girl out on a date," said Tabby Craig, a junior medical technology major from Mobile. "This is normally the common practice, but at any time the girl can ask the guy."

She also mentioned that it is common practice in the U.S. for individuals to try to "fix up" or arrange dates for their friends in hopes that they will become romantically involved.



Hannah Crews photo

Holly Ammons a sophomore nursing major from Geneva holds hands with Justin Walker a sophomore graphic design Niceville, Fl.

In Malika Akhunova's country parents do most of the fixing up.

"The majority of us experience arranged marriage, as we consider it safe, and traditional," said Malika Akhunova,

"Arranged marriages basically involve families finding a suitable spouse for their children."

a sophomore political science major from Uzbekistan.

"Parents look for families of equal financial and social status, or the look among the family that they personally know. That way, it's easier for adults to

communicate."

As far as dating formalities go, Akhunova said that it is much like U.S. activities, which might include eating out or going to see a movie.

"One interesting thing is that in arranged marriages, when we go on a date for the first time we go with adults. For example, I may bring my sister, and he may bring his sister," she said.

In the ABC News article, "First Comes Marriage, then Comes Love" written in 2009, Myrna Toledo cites that 60 percent of all marriages are arranged and 90 percent of the marriages in India are arranged.

Grishma Rimal, a junior broadcast major from Nepal, also comes from a country that includes parents in dating culture.

"Traditionally, most marriages were arranged and that culture still

remains practiced widely," Rimal said. "Arranged marriages basically involve families finding a suitable spouse for their children."

"Most of the time it's the first kiss that makes things official."

"It is like being set up on a blind date except that the decision you make is not whether or not you want to date this person, it's whether or not you want to marry him or her."

Rimal says that she thinks this practice is "outdated" and that she sees people moving away from this tradition.

"Although these days it is more common for people to date, it is still a relatively new practice," she said, "and much of this is kept secret from the family unless you have parents who are very understanding."

One consistency from each student was what people do on dates. Each said something along the lines of going out to get something to eat or just spending time with the person to get to know them.

Weißbichnicht said that she saw one other difference in the way Americans date.

"Also a big difference is that relationships are more private," she said. "You don't really put it on social media until you have been steady for a while (six months or a year). You also don't tell everyone immediately. People find out when seeing couples together."

Flowers will die and the candy will be eaten, but taking time to understand his or her culture will show real heartfelt interest.

Professor brings fun atmosphere to classes

Taylor Foxx
Staff Writer

An award-winning language professor shared his passions and the journey that brought him to Troy University.

For an office that boasts a bleached boar head, a dried piranha and a shark jaw, the large room is sparsely decorated.

Some disheveled books line a tall bookshelf. The windowsill is garnished with personal pictures. A piece of homemade art is tacked on a wall that is otherwise relatively bare. The room is much like its owner: simple and yet full of energy.

As he answers questions, he sits back in his chair with his feet kicked up, relaxed and yet full of enthusiasm. This is a simple yet telling glimpse into the multifaceted life of Kenneth LaBrant, a Spanish professor at Troy University.

Originally hailing from Redington Beach, Fla., LaBrant never expected to be a teacher even though this was the common profession of his father and brother. Now it is one of his greatest passions.

"I love students and interacting with them," LaBrant said, "I genuinely love teaching."

I also love meeting with students and their parents in my office to tell them about Troy, about the Honors Program, about the Spanish program or just to talk about life in general."

When he came to Troy State University in 1994, he hit the ground running in the Spanish program.

"Dr. LaBrant came with great energy and increased our enrollment in Spanish by 75 percent by the end of his first year."

"In May of 1995, LaBrant became the only professor in the history of Troy University to win the Ingalls Award for outstanding classroom teaching during his 'rookie year' on campus," said James Sherry, the French professor who

oversaw LaBrant's hiring in 1994.

LaBrant's energy and dedication to the work set before him is a common thread throughout his life story.

In high school, LaBrant ran his own lawn cutting business. To gain more customers, he attached his lawn mower to his 3-wheeled bike to travel further throughout his neighborhood.

While working at Sears, he quickly rose from the ranks and even took over the accounting work for the entire business as a college student.

In 1987, he met his wife-to-be Sheri at a Christian conference. He married her three years later in 1990 at the age of 22.

In the classroom, LaBrant is a student favorite and has even garnered a 4.5 out of 5 on ratemyprofessors.com.

"Dr. LaBrant makes the environment friendly and fun by making jokes, celebrating our successes, helping us through our mistakes and always keeping a positive attitude," said Shelby Wood, a sophomore social science secondary education major from Wewahatchka, Fla.

In his spare time, LaBrant loves anything involving family time with his wife and six children, especially traveling.

In past years, LaBrant has even taken parts of his family on his cultural, student trips to Mexico and Costa Rica. He also teaches a course on the culture of Spain and Spain's influence on the world.

LaBrant's office is located in Wright Hall in Room 212F.

He welcomes students to drop by if they need help with Spanish or have something on their mind.

"His teaching style," said Jose Galarza, a freshman ophthalmic medical assistance major from Guayaquil, Ecuador, "is organized."

"He has good explanations and methods of teaching towards students."



April Irvin photo

Kenneth R. LaBrant

Spanish Professor Kenneth LaBrant in his office located in Wright Hall Room 212F. He became a teacher just like his brother and father.

LaBrant won the Ingalls Award for outstanding classroom teaching during his first couple years at Troy.

Sudoku

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.

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

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

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TRIVIA QUESTION:

WHAT'S WHITE, BLACK AND READ ALL OVER?

ANSWER: THE TROPOLITAN

Students should make time for maintaining mental, physical health

Kelsey Vickers
Perspectives Editor

With the semester getting into full swing, a lot of students seem to be struggling simultaneously with a lot of issues, stress and mid-semester slumps being a couple of them.

I know I can't be the only one feeling slightly unmotivated and a little stressed out from the workload now that we're not at the beginning of a new semester again.

I can't stress enough how important it is to keep yourself in check emotionally. While college is a rewarding time for people our age, it can also be pretty tough to handle sometimes.

One thing I like to do to keep myself from getting into a slump is to set rewards for myself when I accomplish things.

Whatever you choose to reward yourself with is your choice, as long as it's nothing that's going to hurt anybody or put a huge dent in your bank account.

Setting a reward system for yourself can backfire fairly quickly if you don't know how to motivate yourself properly.

Another thing to keep in mind is remember not to sacrifice your health to accomplish goals.

All-nighters, poor eating habits and a lack of sleep can really be detrimental to your schoolwork and emotional issues.

Skipping a meeting or "forgetting" to go to class isn't an excuse to only sleep a couple hours a night or finish homework at the last minute.

I know we're all guilty of it at some point, but taking care of schoolwork in a timely manner to make sure you have time for other things that are just as important is a difficult but crucial thing for college students to do.

Keeping your health in check can be really helpful in keeping everything else

on track.

One of the most important aspects of health, in my opinion, is your emotional state.

Stress and anxiety tend to bring on feelings of depression for a number of college students, and taking care of those problems at the first sign of it is vital for success.

If you find yourself feeling down, figure out some of the things that lift you back up and make an effort to do those things.

Maybe you like to listen to music, paint, read, take a bath or hang out with friends.

Make some time for those things, because your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

Not only is it as important, but it can greatly influence your physical health as well.

It might be difficult for some to find what makes them relax, but learning what helps you wind down can keep anxiety at bay.

I also strongly suggest talking to a counselor if you have a lot of issues that you can't talk to friends or family about.

The S.A.V.E. project on campus has a number of excellent counselors that are available to meet with you and help you hash out some of the emotional issues you may be having.

Keeping these things in mind will be immensely helpful to ensure that your college experience is the best it can be.

Depression is a serious issue that has an impact on the lives of college students everywhere, and feelings of sadness and extreme anxiety shouldn't be taken lightly.

Talking about your problems and finding solutions is really beneficial for dealing with the ins and outs of college life.

Also, remember to keep your good friends around you as much as possible.



Seth Nicholson

Troy University free speech policy among worst in U.S. With changes, we could become shining example

Ana-Shea Fann
Contributor

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education awarded Troy University for having the worst speech code in America in 2013.

In fact, none of the major public universities in Alabama receives a "green light" rating from FIRE.

Then, the Huffington Post ran an article about the Ten Worst Colleges for Free Speech, and once again, Troy was on the list.

Troy, in fact, has had a notorious reputation for ending up in court over the infringement of First Amendment rights of students, starting with a student who was not allowed to publish an article, so instead ran the word "CENSORED" across the front page of the newspaper.

A lot of people would look at this as an embarrassment.

I see this as a golden opportunity. If we are the worst, then we can only

get better from here.

Our speech code is as follows: "For purposes of Troy University's policy, harassment is any comments or conduct consisting of words or actions that are unwelcome or offensive to a person in relation to sex, race, age, religion, national origin, color, marital status, pregnancy, disability or veteran's status."

Basically, our policy blatantly disregards a great deal of constitutionally protected speech.

A great deal of political opinion is censored under this code because so much of policy is directly related to all of those points of relation.

A real-life example: talking about Christianity to someone who is not a Christian could be considered to be words and actions that are unwelcome and offensive.

Clearly, you have to be very careful about what you say and who you say it to per the speech code, lest you be branded "offensive" and "unwelcome."

There are many, many problems with our speech code. First, the vagueness of the speech code almost definitely allows cherry picking between what is and is not offensive. Second, it totally inhibits discourse without the threat of some level of reprisal beyond just disagreeing with a fellow student or professor.

The likelihood that we will never encounter an opinion differing from our own has a near zero probability, and the same can be said for being offended.

If one never encounters disagreement or offense, chances are someone is lying to avoid rocking the boat or you live like a hermit.

College, as an institution, is specifically designed to foster the development of the ideals of individuals.

A necessary component of doing that job well is for one to encounter opinions differing from the one that is already held.

Our speech code works

directly against that goal.

The problem is obvious, and the solution is even clearer.

We need to change our speech codes to foster our First Amendment rights and a greater opportunity at education without fear of reprisal.

As a student, I would like to see the administration of Troy University work with FIRE to amend the speech codes so that we can become the first school in Alabama to fully recognize First Amendment rights on campus and receive a green light rating from FIRE.

As a school, we strive to be the best in all things. Shouldn't this also be the case when it comes to preserving a long-held traditional American right?

Shouldn't freedom of speech ring in every hallway and every quad?

We could become the torchbearers for the preservation of rights in education in the state of Alabama. This is not an opportunity to pass up.

Say WHAT?

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

What did you do during the snow days?



"Went to Namia and had tea with Mr. Tumnus."
-The Tropolitan



"I played in the snow, took a lot of pictures and watched a lot of Netflix."
-Jamie Leverette, a sophomore English major from Ashford.



"I went sledding on the hill behind the new amphitheatre the first night. After that, I stayed inside because it was cold."
-Sabrina Stone, a senior psychology major from Newport, N.C.

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.

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103 Wallace Hall
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tropolitan@gmail.com

www.TropNews.com

Editor-in-Chief
Tabitha Mixon

Business Manager
Whitney Butler

News Editor
Valario Johnson

Assistant News Editor
Karli Mauldin

Sports Editor
Jill Odom

Perspectives Editor
Kelsey Vickers

A&E Editor
Zach Winslett

A&E Assistant Editor
Kianna Collins

Features Editor
Emily Jackson

Photo Editor
April Irvin

Cartoons
Seth Nicholson

Copy Editors
Laura Hutto, Jane Morrell,
Chase Robinson

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Ngoc Vo, Josh Williams, Lindsey Schoewe, Alyse Nelson, Megan Phillips, Madison Griggs, Faith Karwacki, Tatiannah Clarke, Kateryna Kunitsyna, Amy Austin, Jamal Carswell, Ryan Lee, Taylor Foxx

Photographers
Jennifer Carlisle, Caitlin Collins,
Hannah Crews, Caleb Hicks,
Brittany Jennings

Graphic Designer
Carson Brown

Ad Sales
Kira Oliver

Web Master/Social Media
Joshua Thurston

Adviser
Steve Stewart

New hall goes Long way

New music building enhances the experience of students



Hannah Crews photo

John Maloy Long Hall was opened this semester after being under construction since July 25, 2012. The approximately 3,300 foot facility is state-of-the-art and has storage areas for instruments and equipment, as well as a fully-equipped band room, dance studio and a choir room. The previous Long Hall, which was the home of the Sound of the South marching band since 1976, was torn down to make way for the new building. "The new music hall is amazing," said Jacob Ellison, a junior music industry major and percussionist in the Sound of the South. "It has exceeded my expectations. It's going to make everything much easier with organization and instrument storage. It has quite a few extra practice rooms so more room for students to hone their skills."

Shoes made for feminism

Exhibit emphasizes the challenges of gender equality

Madison Griggs
Staff Writer

"Perfect posture. Head up. Chin level with floor. Chest up. Shoulders relaxed. Lower abdomen flat." These are the words visitors are greeted with upon entering the Malone Hall art gallery and looking down at the carpet. Next to these words are all sizes of pink pumps, a table piled high with teacups on saucers and a pink taped line leading down the middle of the gallery. "Learning Feminine: Posture" is just one of many pieces in Libby Rowe's gallery entitled "Pink."

Using a wide variety of mediums, Rowe's projects share a similar goal: to express the negative sides of gender expectations and society's expectations of women. Some pieces are interactive, like "Learning Feminine: Posture," where you're encouraged to try on a pair of pumps and attempt to walk the pink line with a teacup on your head. At the other end of the room are framed boxes on the wall with girls' hair extending out. Cups full of hairpins and accessories are nearby for visitors to play with and style the hair.

One of the most influential pieces in the gallery consists of two large pictures of the artist herself — on one side she is shown as herself, with her short hair, glasses, T-shirt and jeans. On the opposite side she's wearing a dated polka-dot dress, pearls, heels and makeup — representing how she really is and what society wants her to look like. Next to this is another profound piece entitled "Not a Sir." Wallet sized photos are displayed of the artist in different locations. On top of the pictures she explains that she was called a "sir"



Caleb Hicks photo

Artist Libby Rowe's exhibit, "Pink," addresses women's hardships in gender expectations, especially emphasizing her recent experience in the Southern United States, where she's been often addressed as "sir" due to her height, deep voice, short hair and self-described "confident presence."

in all of those places, simply because she had short hair and didn't dress as feminine as society would like or expect.

"In 'Learning Feminine: Posture', it shows the lifestyle women are 'supposed' to live," freshman Garrett Bode said. "But when you go to 'Not a Sir', you can see that the artist wants to be herself, but society is trying to change her."

Art classes have been brought in all week to critique

pieces.

"It's been an adventure to have this be the first gallery the students critique; it really forces them to think," visual art professor Kimberly Burgess said.

The gallery has a lot to say about society — mostly negative things, and viewers of the gallery are forced to come face to face with the fact that gender expectations are still an issue, even now in the 21st Century.

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LABOR DAY Kate Winslet Josh Brodin 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:30	FROZEN EXPERIENCE THE FUN ALL OVER AGAIN! JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND COME FOR THE SING ALONG 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:35 SING-A-LONG SPECIAL SING ALONG ENGAGEMENT IN SELECT THEATERS STARTS JAN 21!
LONE SURVIVOR MARK WAHLBERG 6:50 9:30	THE NUT JOB 2D 1:00, 4:00 realD 3D NO NUTS NO GLORY
THAT AWKWARD MOMENT WHEN YOU REALIZE GETTING SOME HEADS WANTING MORE ZAC EFRON MILES TELLER MICHAEL B. JORDAN 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:40	ICE CUBE KEVIN HART Propose to this cop's sister? Rookie mistake. Ride Along 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30 COMING SOON
	THE LEGO MOVIE THE STORY OF A NOBODY WHO SAVED EVERYBODY 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:25 realD 3D

Troy University Library to play Cuban films; study abroad group seeking interested students



LatinoFusion

The first film in the Cuban film festival is a satirical zombie film.

Chase Robinson
Copy Editor

The Troy University Library will be hosting a Cuban film festival this month. Every Tuesday evening for the next three weeks a film will be screened in Patterson Hall Room 103 at 7 p.m.

Instrumental in organizing the festival was Lisa Vardaman, instructional media librarian at the Troy campus library.

Vardaman was inspired in part by her participation in Troy University's first Study Abroad trip to Cuba.

"Getting the opportunity to travel to Cuba was a great thrill," Vardaman said.

She has traveled abroad with Semester Abroad, but she called the trip to Cuba "a rare event for Americans."

The first film screened will be "Juan of the Dead" on Feb. 11. Vardaman will host the event. This movie is a zombie satire.

On Feb. 18, "The Motorcycle Diaries" will be screened, and Johanna Alberich, an assistant professor in the Modern Languages and Classics Department, will host.

"The Motorcycle Diaries" follows Che Guevara on a transformative motorcycle trip.

The final film will be "Buena Vista Social Club" on Feb. 25, hosted by Doc Kirby, a lecturer in the Hall School of Communication. This film is a documentary about a group of traditional Cuban

musicians.

The Study Abroad group saw the band

"It would be a delight if we got some people who were interest enough in Cuba that they'd like to study abroad with us," Kirby said.

on its trip to Cuba.

"They still have two singers who are in their 90's and a flute player who is in his 90's, and they can still bring it," Kirby said.

Alberich and Kirby are both faculty team leaders for the festival.

Kirby has been to Cuba several times, and he and Alberich led the trip to Cuba. They are also planning another trip May 12-23 that students and faculty are invited to join.

"It would be a delight if we got some people who were interest enough in Cuba that they'd like to study abroad with us," Kirby said.

According to Kirby, we are in the only university in Alabama taking students to Cuba.

"If you're wise and discrete then you can have a great time," Kirby said.

Fervent fans bring Japanese title state side

Parker McCann
Contributor

"Dangan Ronpa: Trigger Happy Havoc" will be making its North American release on the PS Vita on Feb. 11. Dangan Ronpa (literally meaning "bullet retaliation") came out in Japan in November 2010, and it developed a following in the U.S. last April, three months before the game was announced to be released in the U.S.

The fanbase grew almost instantaneously after "Homestuck," a popular webcomic, went on hiatus. During that time, most of the fans read through the Let's Play (a type of walkthrough) of Dangan Ronpa.

On July 4, Dangan Ronpa received its own anime, and two days later Nippon Ichi Software announced the video game would come to the U.S.

The story of Dangan Ronpa is very unique. An elite high school, Hope's Peak Academy, only takes students who are at the top of a particular field, like a baseball star, a fashionista, a gambler and a clairvoyant, and gives titles for their skills, like Ultimate Baseball Star and Ultimate Gambler.

Along with all of these "Ultimate" students, Hope's Peak Academy also chooses a student out of a lottery of every student of that grade in the nation to be accepted fully into the academy and dubbed "Ultimate Good Luck."

The main character, Naegi, is the Ultimate Good Luck of this class. On the first day of school he steps through the doors, and, next thing he knows, he wakes up on a desk.

The windows are covered with steel plates, the entrance has been replaced with a locked mechanical vault, and he discovers that he is trapped in the school with his classmates.

Their "principal," Monokuma, a robotic stuffed bear, informs them that they are trapped in this school forever.

The only way out is to murder a fellow student and not be discovered during the School Trial, when the students must find out who the murderer is so they alone will be punished.

If the murderer isn't discovered everyone but the murderer will be punished.

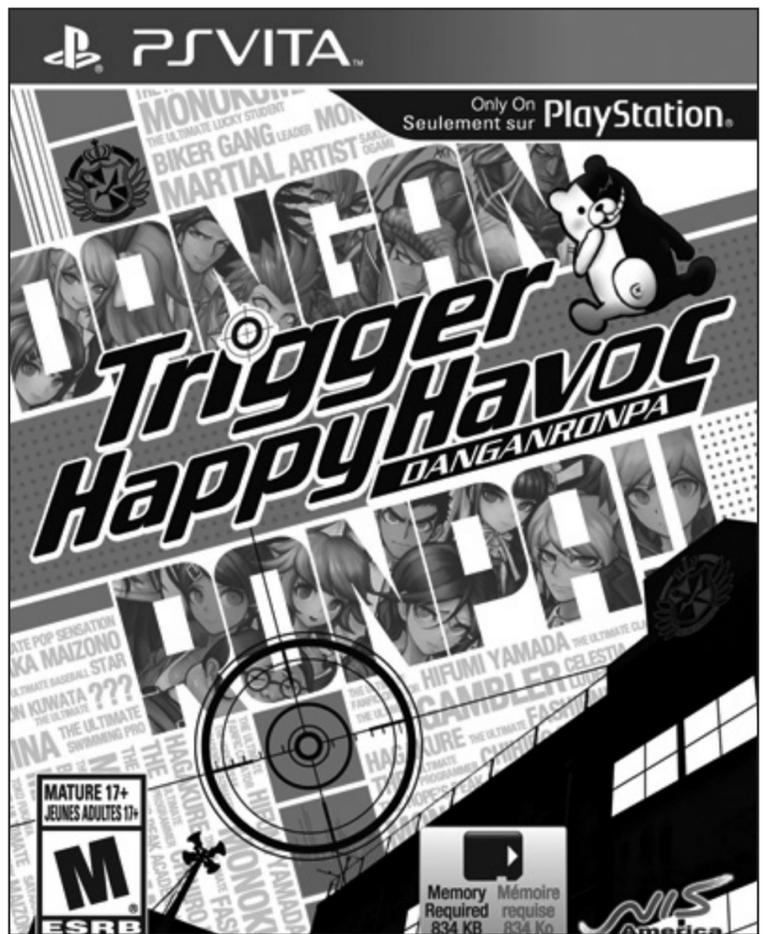
The punishment is execution.

What kind of game is Dangan Ronpa, though? Most say that it is like the Ace Attorney series, with many of the mini-games in the School Trials being exactly the same as in an Ace Attorney game.

The murders are complicated, with many twists and turns until the very end of the trial. The game has two areas to set difficulties for, the gameplay itself and the logic.

Both have three difficulty levels: Friendly, Lenient and Malicious. The soundtrack stands out from any other game and will take some time to adjust to. The art is distinct, with very bright backgrounds yet softer colors on the characters.

The graphics aren't 2D or 3D but are labeled "2.5D" by Spike, the makers of the game. The graphics are essentially very well made 2D images of characters and items from the front, but on the sides and backs they look like cardboard cutouts.



Spike Chunsoft Co. Ltd.





Olympics: What to watch for

Ryan Lee
Staff Writer

In just a few days time, the 2014 Winter Olympics will be full speed ahead in Sochi, Russia. The Winter Olympics are still quite young for such a large international sporting event.

The first Winter Olympics were held in France in 1924, and they occur every four years at a different location.

The locales vary, and the games have been held on three different continents in its history.

The countries that have been honored to host these events are as the United States, France, Canada, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Japan and Austria, with this year being the first for Russia. The 2018 games will be held in South Korea.

The honors for victors in these games are divided into medals just like the Summer Olympics, gold for first place, silver for second and bronze for third.

Only six countries have won medals at every single Winter Olympics; the United States, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Canada. Only the United States has won gold at every Winter Olympics ever held.

The United States should pull in a few more gold medals this year as well with athletes such as Shaun White and Patrick Kane.

White is widely known for his snowboarding, while Kane is a prominent hockey player. Both are easily good enough to bring home gold as well as several other American athletes.

A few new names are being thrust onto the scene this year that people should look out for. Sarah Hendrickson is a 19-year-old contestant for women's ski jump. Hendrickson did wonders on the World Cup circuit in 2012 before having a disastrous injury causing her to undergo surgery.

Although she thought all of her prospects of being an Olympian were over after the accident, she made an extremely fast recovery and was named to the Olympic team for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

Another upcoming name to look out for is 18-year-old Tucker West, who will be a part of the United States men's luge team this year.

West is only a freshman in college, and is now the youngest person ever to be on the United States men's luge team.

He should be able to do big things for his team, and even bigger things for his country.

Last on the list is a brother and sister pair. Phil and Amanda Kessel will play for their respective genders hockey teams in this year's Winter Olympics.

Phil is a member of the Toronto Maple Leafs NHL team, while his sister Amanda is a member of the University of Minnesota's women's hockey team.

This will be Phil's second appearance at a Winter Olympics game, playing for the United States in Vancouver in 2010. However, this will be the first year his sister will be appearing, and it is sure to spark some fierce sibling rivalry.

With both old names and new coming on to the scene, this year's Winter Olympics should be a good one and definitely one people will not want to miss. The Sochi Winter Olympics will run from Feb. 7 to Feb. 23.



Joshua Thurston photo

Senior left-handed pitcher Shane McCain is one of the returning players who will be a starter in the bullpen along with fellow senior right-handed pitcher Tanner Hicks. McCain had 10 starts and ended his 2013 season with an ERA of 3.48. Hicks finished with an ERA of 3.61 and led the team in innings pitched with a total of 99.2 in 2013.

Returning pitchers provide defense

Amy Austin
Staff Writer

In less than two weeks, the Troy University baseball team will step foot on the diamond and prepare to defend its title as Sun Belt Conference champions. One key element to its execution of this task is the team's defense.

Last year, the Troy defense was a key component to the team's winning record and postseason. From the starters to the bullpen, many players helped the team function as a well-oiled machine.

Returning players that carried the load before are pre-season All-American Tyler Vaughn, who will continue to play shortstop for the Trojans; Shane McCain, who was the 2013 Sun Belt pitcher of the year and Tanner Hicks, who was a starting pitcher for the Trojans.

The pitching staff for the Trojan defense had to carry a large load through a tough season last year and the players

for this season know it's tough to produce endurance and carry the load throughout the entire course of the season.

"There is certainly a load to be carried by the pitching staff and we obviously returned Tanner and a lot of core guys that have a lot of experience," McCain said.

McCain and Hicks will be in starting roles for the pitching staff. McCain had a 9-1 record in 2013 and earned a 3.48 ERA throughout his 10 starts. Hicks ended last season with an 8-4 record and ERA of 3.61. He also leads the team in innings pitched.

"We do have some experience returning on the mound that has been very successful for us," said head coach Bobby Pierce. "So at the front end with McCain and Hicks, possibly Will Starling coming back from Tommy John surgery being ready, those three would be a great place to start on the mound, fill in the bullpen and go from there."

The two-headed monster for the 2013 season consisted of relief pitchers Thomas Austin and Nate Hill, who extended the pitching life for the baseball team. New players will have to step up into these relief roles and help the Trojans in trying situations in the last innings of the game.

"Tom Austin and Nate Hill both set career appearance records at Troy in their time here, three years for Nate and four years for Tom, so that experience, that trustworthiness that those guys brought and the success that they had, awfully tough to replace," Pierce said. "And at the tail of the game, guys come in with the biggest pressure moments so not just anybody can fill those roles, so there again a big challenge."

Putting these defensive changes and challenges into play will begin soon for the team. The season will begin at home for the Trojans on Feb. 14 with first pitch at 6 p.m. against Northern Kentucky.

Men's basketball falls to ASU

Jill Odom
Sports Editor

Troy's men strived in vain to defeat the Red Wolves, losing by a mere 10 points, 83-73, on Saturday, Feb. 1. Arkansas State dominated in the free throw department and beyond the rim, but Troy fought the whole game.

During the first half, Troy and ASU answered each other's points constantly, keeping the game tight and tying the score six times. It was the steady accumulation of baskets from the charity stripe that allowed the Red Wolves to pull ahead.

"That was a tough loss because I thought we came out ready to play, and we played well early," said head coach Phil Cunningham. "I thought the most critical stage of the game was about the 8 minute mark of the first half. At that point we had seven assists and two turnovers and then we go into half time with eight assists and nine turnovers so we have one assist and seven turnovers down the stretch and that's when they extended that lead and that was just a huge part of the game."

Senior forward Tevin Calhoun and junior forward Kevin Thomas tied for scoring the most points for the Trojans in the game with 16 apiece. They also both had spectacular breakaway dunks during the first half that got the crowd fired up.

Other players who helped keep the Trojans in the game were senior center Josh Warren and senior guard Antoine Myers. Warren breathed life into the team during the second half by contributing three blocks and seven rebounds and a field goal.

Myers had a double-double for the night, making the most rebounds for the team at 11 and scored 14 points as well.

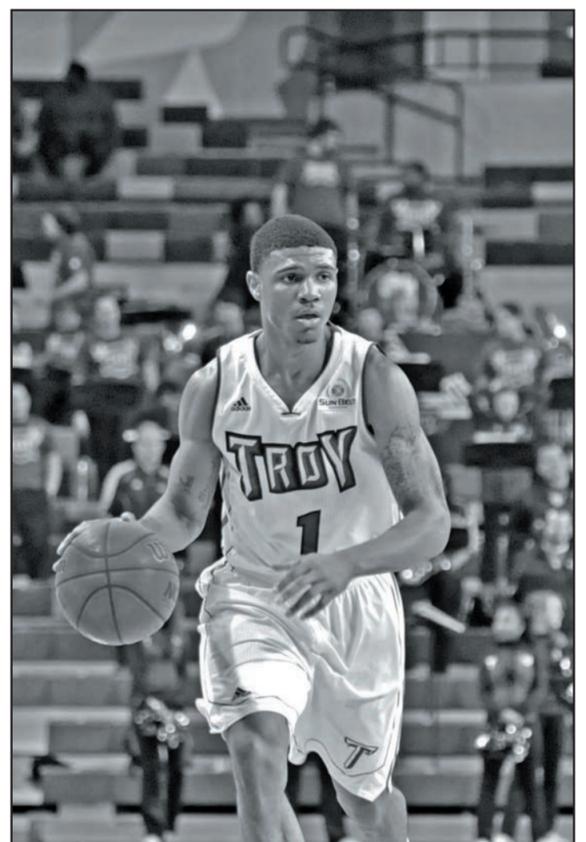
"Basically that's just my mindset every game, just to help us from a guard stand point, just to rebound," Myers said.

Troy kept Arkansas State's field goal percentage about even with their own, only allowing 43.6 percent while the Trojans averaged 46.6 percent. While the Trojans were extremely strong in the paint, scoring 30 and ASU only made 16, the Red Wolves had the advantage in 3-pointers adding to their lead during the second half.

ASU had a free throw percentage of 82.8 while Troy made only 57.1 percent. The Red Wolves shot a total of 24 out of 29 free throws while the Trojans only made 12 out of 21.

"When you go to the line and miss free throws, that's tough because it saps the air out of you, not only the players but the crowd and we work on it," Cunningham said. "We've been working a lot on them and maybe we need to quit working on them maybe that will work."

Within the last minute of the game ASU was at the free-throw line three times in a row but senior guard Jeff Mullahey, who had been struggling to produce throughout the game, had the last word and scored a 3-pointer with fifteen seconds to spare.



April Irvin photo

Senior guard Antoine Myers had a double-double against Arkansas State on Saturday, Feb. 1. He had 11 total rebounds and made 14 points during the game. Troy plays South Alabama Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Sophomore guard Cameron Golden for the Red Wolves gained possession of the ball and ran out the last ten seconds of the clock. The Trojans played with endurance but in their desperation, the constant personal fouls near the end hurt them the most and gave the Red Wolves an extra six points for the final score.

Troy faces the South Alabama Jaguars at the Trojan Arena today at 7:30 p.m. and then hits the road to play Western Kentucky at Bowling Green on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.



Trojan Softball
Troy vs. Auburn
Thursday, Feb. 6 at 3 p.m.

Trojan women slaughter Red Wolves at home

Gabe Sadetsky
Staff Writer

Troy's women's basketball team crushed Sun Belt leader Arkansas State 83-65 after returning from their road trip Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Trojan Arena. The Trojans had a big day from their guards, senior leader Joanna Harden and sophomore sensation Ashley Beverly-Kelley, who combined for 50 of Troy's 83 points.

The Trojans now move to 7-13 overall (3-6 in conference play) and have won three of their last four games. During the stretch, the Lady Trojans scored at least 80 points in four straight games for the first time since the 1996-97 team.

Troy jumped off to a 40-28 halftime lead and never looked backed, staying ahead by as much as 26 with 5:45 minutes left in the game. Harden extended her streak of 20-point games to six while Beverly-Kelley finished three assists away from a triple-double, ending with a team-high of 15 rebounds.

As impressive as the offense was Saturday, the defense for Troy was equally impressive, holding Arkansas State to 2-13 shooting during a 7 minute span in the first half, a run that included five Red Wolves' turnovers. ASU's red shirt sophomore guard Aundrea Gamble, a finalist for Sun Belt player of the year, was held to a mere 10 points and fouled out with over five minutes left in the game.

Troy demolished Arkansas State in free-throw percentage, shooting 64.7 percent from the line while the Red Wolves managed just 37.5 percent. The only other player for Troy to reach double figures in scoring was senior forward Kourtney Coleman, gaining 10 points while shooting 3-5 at the free-throw line.

Sophomore forward Jalen O'Bannon lead ASU in scoring with 12 points while red shirt junior guard Hanna Qedan along with Gamble both scored 10 each. The Trojans, as a team, also out-rebounded the Red Wolves 50-47.

Troy still remains 9th in conference standings while Arkansas State still leads following losses by all three of the top teams in the Sun Belt.

Troy will return to the hardwood Thursday, Feb. 6, against rival and conference foe South Alabama (7-12, 5-4). Tipoff is set for 5:15 p.m. at the Trojan Arena and will feature a Jaguars team who, like Troy, has won three of their last four games, most recently defeating Arkansas-Little Rock 61-56.



April Irvin photo

Troy dominated at the charity stripe, making 22 out of 34 free throws. Arkansas State was only able to make 6 out of 16 free throws. Senior guard Dominique Ross sets up for a shot against the Red Wolves. The Trojans face South Alabama Thursday, Feb. 6, at 5:15 p.m. at the Trojan Arena.

Track team performs well at TSU Invitational

Wally Pendergrass
Staff Writer

The Trojan track team put in a good performance on Saturday, Feb. 1, in Nashville, Tenn. Several Trojan women posted season-best results in the meet.

In the 1-mile run sophomore Julia Ostendorf finished eighth with a time of 5:21.79, which was her best time of the season. Freshman Sara Lane ran the event in 5:32.12, which earned her nineteenth place.

In the 55-meter hurdles both sophomore Lacey Marcus and freshman Riley Schwietz placed in the top 10 in preliminaries to qualify for the finals.

Schwietz would finish sixth in the finals and Marcus would finish tenth. Schwietz's performance moved her into the top 10 of the Sun Belt Conference in the 55-meter hurdles.

Senior Adria Hill fell just short of qualifying for the finals in the 55-meter dash. She finished thirteenth in preliminaries with a time of 25.91. The distance medley team finished seventh with a time of 12:44.02. The team is made up of Ostendorf, Lane, freshman Tabitha Parker, and sophomore Tina Bokenfohr. Head coach Jill Lancaster was pleased with the team's performance.

"Our coaching staff can see progress, even on those that did not see it in the final results," Lancaster said.

The men's side had a very successful performance at the TSU Invitational, including

a 55-meter hurdle win by senior Thaddeus Curtis. In the 55-meter dash, junior Daniel Dent and senior Jordan Landburg qualified for the finals by finishing third and fifth in the preliminaries respectively.

In the finals, Dent would finish third with a time of 6.36 while Landburg would finish right behind in fourth with a time of 6.39.

In the 200-meter dash, junior Benjamin Martin finished third and senior Tyrell Moore finished fourteenth, while junior Chaun Lynn finished fifth in the 400 meter-dash.

In the preliminaries of the 55-meter hurdles, Curtis finished second and red shirt freshman Jaron Davis finished fifth, qualifying both for the finals.

In the finals, Curtis would take first place with a time of 7.51, shaving .16 seconds off his preliminary time. Davis finished that event in fifth while shaving .07 seconds off his prelim time. The team took fifth in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 3:22.95.

In the field events, Dent placed third in the long jump, sophomore Myles Charley placed second in the triple jump and junior Demetris Elia placed third in the weight throw.

The teams have one more event before the Sun Belt Conference Championships. They will compete this weekend at the Samford Multi and Invitational in Birmingham on Feb. 7-8. The Sun Belt Conference Championships are also in Birmingham on Feb. 24-25.



April Irvin photo

Senior Thaddeus Curtis took second place in the preliminary 55-meter hurdles. In the finals, he won first place in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.51. The track team competes in Birmingham on Feb. 7-8.



April Irvin photo

Troy's softball and baseball teams hosted fan day between the women's and men's basketball games against Arkansas State on Saturday, Feb. 1. The entire team for both sports signed posters with the 2014 schedule.

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