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Prison time may await suspects

Troy and Middle Tennessee students charged with sexual battery

Grishma Rimal
Variety Editor

The two Troy University students who were arrested by Florida's Bay County Sheriff's Office in connection with a sexual battery case could face prison time if found guilty.

Delonte' Martistee, 22, from Bainbridge, Georgia, and Ryan Austin Calhoun, 23, from Mobile have been charged with sexual battery by multiple perpetrators.

According to Bob Sombathy, assistant state attorney for the 14th Judicial Circuit of Florida, if the two are found guilty, their sentences will depend on the number of current and prior charges. "It's not going to be a probation," he said, stating that the sentence can be up to 30 years.

The investigation into the case began after a video was found that allegedly shows what the sheriff's office has called a "gang rape."

According to the BCSO offense/incident report provided by public information officer Ruth Corely, the video "depicts several individuals sexually battering a female that appears to be incapacitated."

Florida statute No. 794.011 states that "sexual battery means oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object ..."



Photos provided by Bay County Sheriff's Office

Left and center: Troy University students Ryan Austin Calhoun and Delonte' Martistee were arrested and charged with sexual battery. Right: Middle Tennessee State University student George Davon Kennedy was also arrested in connection with the case.

A third person has also been arrested in connection with the case. George Davon Kennedy, a Middle Tennessee State University student, was identified by the BCSO and a warrant for his arrest was issued.

Investigators found that Kennedy had family in DeKalb County, Georgia, and with the assistance of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Kennedy was arrested Tuesday night and charged with being a principal to sexual assault by multiple perpetrators.

The state attorney's office said that

the investigation is ongoing and other suspects may be involved.

On Monday, Derrick Brewster, assistant dean of student services, sent out an email informing students, faculty and staff that Martistee and Calhoun were suspended from the university.

A video statement was also released in the email where Walter Givhan, senior vice chancellor for advancement and economic development, stated that "to ensure due process, this is a temporary suspension pending a hearing in completion of the police investigation."

Martistee was a student athlete and has been removed from the men's track team. Members of the athletic team have been advised by the athletic department to not speak to the media and did not make a statement.

According to the BCSO, Calhoun posted \$50,000 bond and has been released from the Bay County jail while Martistee was still being held as of Wednesday afternoon.

See **Students arrested**, page 2

Dam destruction raises concern

Chase Robinson
Editor-in-chief

The city of Troy tore down a beaver dam beside McKinley Drive near the walkway that connects the Edge apartment complex to campus.

Vaughn Daniels, environmental services director for the city of Troy, said the city worked with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to make sure the dam removal was environmentally safe.

The beavers were not killed, Daniels said.

According to Daniels, the dam was a threat to the road.

Josh Slaven, grounds manager for Troy University, said that Physical Plant was aware of the beavers. He said the beavers "tend to come and go," especially during heavy rains.

Slaven said the university has been looking into companies that could relocate the beavers.

After the beaver dam was removed, the pond it created

drained.

Members of Troy University's Environmental Club moved animals from the remains of the pond to the Lagoon.

"In one day out there doing a visual survey, we saw 3-foot grass carp, sunfishes, red-winged blackbirds, belted kingfishers, musk turtles, pond sliders, gray and green tree frogs, Eastern garter snakes, as well as a huge female great horned owl," said Tanner Stainbrook, a senior ecology and field biology major from Huntsville and a member of the Environmental Club, in an email.

Members of the Environmental Club have voiced concern about the effects tearing down the dam will have on the area.

"The big thing is that this eliminated the major wetland ecosystem in the area," Stainbrook said. "This mud hole, in two days, will be just that. There'll be no water left."

On Saturday, Jeremy Duke, a senior biology major from Ozark and president



Chase Robinson photo

Tanner Stainbrook, a member of the Environmental Club, removing a turtle from the pond formed at the beaver dam.

of the Environmental Club; Cole Harrell, a senior ecology and field biology major from Jackson and vice president of the Environmental Club; Chelsea Smith, a graduate student from Enterprise studying environmental and biological sciences and secretary of the Environmental Club; Seth Nicholson, a

senior ecology and field biology major from Brundidge and member of the Environmental Club, and Stainbrook worked to move tadpoles and turtles to the Lagoon.

Group members said they were concerned that this may harm the great horned owl's habitat, as the owl fed on the frogs in the pond.

Nonprofit promotes inner beauty in girls

Lily Casolaro
Staff Writer

TIARAS is a nonprofit organization that teaches young girls the importance of internal beauty and self-worth with an emphasis on biblical principles.

Leah Livingston, a sophomore communication major from Miami and founder of TIARAS in Troy, said she really wanted to positively impact the community.

"TIARAS originated in Miami where I'm from," Livingston said. "I really wanted to bring it here to Troy and make a difference in the lives of girls from all walks of life."

TIARAS organized a dress drive from Feb. 3 to March 2 for members of the Troy community to donate new or gently used dresses.

Trojan Center Room 224 was then transformed into a boutique on April 10-11 that featured formal, semiformal and casual dresses.

Girls aged 12-18 from Pike County and the surrounding areas were invited to pick out and try on dresses to take home at no cost to them.

There were 617 dresses donated and 396 dresses taken home.

A free TIARAS 2015 ball will be held April 18 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Claudia Crosby Theater for teenage girls.

Attire for registered participants is semiformal/formal attire.

The event is centralized on the "possibilities awaiting teenage girls when they embrace purity, self-respect and self-worth," according to the TIARAS event page.

Over 200 girls attended TIARAS last year, and the group aims to increase attendance this year.

Girls will walk in on a pink carpet and have a photo opportunity with escorts. Once inside the theater, the girls participate in worship and hear a message on 1 Corinthians 13 led by female leaders.

Mallory Jayjohn, a senior secondary math education major from Daphne, is serving as the speaker for TIARAS.

"I have always had a passion for motivating and instilling confidence in young women in a biblical way, and I am blessed to be chosen as this year's TIARAS speaker," Jayjohn said.

Amanda Lewis, a Troy graduate, is a volunteer with TIARAS and will be leading the crowning ceremony.

"We give these girls crowns and remind them that they are fearfully and wonderfully made," Lewis said. "We want them to know how much they are loved. We want to express that their worth is not in the media or boys and crown them as daughters of the King."

To register for the TIARAS event, visit troychurch.tv/tiaras.

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A new place for foodies to enjoy

Destiny Hosmer
Staff Writer

Chicken Salad Chick, a chicken salad-focused restaurant, is set to open its new location in Troy on April 21.

Chicken Salad Chick, founded by stay-at-home mom Stacy Brown in 2008, offers gourmet soups, desserts, side salads and 15 different chicken salad flavors to choose from.

The restaurant comes from humble beginnings in Brown's Auburn. Once she created her signature chicken salad recipe, she began selling it from home.

Soon after, Brown was contacted by the Lee County Health Department, which informed her that selling her chicken salad from her kitchen was illegal.

This sparked the creation of a restaurant in Auburn, and many more followed.

With the help of husband Kevin Brown, now president and CEO of Chicken Salad Chick, they have sold over 101 fran-

chises in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

"I have eaten at the Chicken Salad Chick in Homewood, Alabama," said Priscilla Hancock, a sophomore elementary education major from Birmingham. "I am very excited for CSC to come to Troy because they offer an alternative to all of the greasy fast food."

The new Troy restaurant will be located at 1113 U.S. Highway 231 S., Suite C.

"We think Troy is a great location to start up a Chicken Salad Chick," Director of Marketing Ali Rauch said. "We are currently located in larger towns, but we wanted to give a smaller town an opportunity as well."

Rauch said that the restaurant has many visitors from Troy at its other Alabama locations.

"We get many visiting Troy CSC fans already, so we think Troy is a great place to try out."

The art of poetry celebrated

Priyanka Sharma
Staff Writer

Troy University's English department and the Alabama Literary Review invited Randy Blythe and Ted Hadden to read their poetry in celebration of National Poetry Month.

The event was held on Monday, April 13.

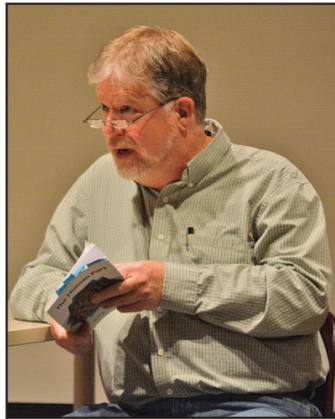
Patricia Waters, an English professor, said that having artists recite their work is a special opportunity to experience.

"Hearing artists read their work is an incredible experience," Waters said. "Art connects people. It opens people to experience, to thoughts and feelings unknown to them, and part of being educated is being exposed to the arts, experiencing the arts. That is why it is called education."

Ted Hadden read two poems from his 2013 collection of works, "Valley Voices."

He spoke about the influence his childhood played in writing his poem "Raspberries and Milk."

"I sometimes like to walk along through the aisle in the supermarket, and I might be humming a tune. Then I will think of a line, and I say, oh, that goes way back to the time when I was 3 years old. Some of my poems have been written this way."



Caitlin Collins photo

Randy Blythe reading out his poetry.

He ended his reading with his work "What It's Like to Have the Violin," and said he had played violin since he was 9, a time that he said he discovered what the relationship between poetry and music meant to him.

Randy Blythe said that his poems wind their way through personal, historical, regional, philosophical and spiritual landscapes. He said that connections between humans and nature can also be found in his works.

"I have been very lucky in my life," Blythe said. "I have been exposed to nature a lot. Don't we forget animals pretty regularly? We

think we are not animals. But we are.

"We seem to deliberately separate ourselves from the intimacy of nature, the intimacy that is part of us."

Blythe said that every element in nature helped inspire him during the writing process.

"If you want to write, then there are times when something you see speaks to you. If you are in the woods, it could be a feather, a rock or anything."

Blythe read his poems "Dirt," "The Possible," "Joyce's Hair," "My Job," "Moth" and "For Aunt Louise Who Never Liked Me" from his latest work "The Human Part."

Blythe said that knowing who you are as a person is important to creating poetry. "I think it matters to know who you are, and who you are matters," he said. "There is a tendency in this world we live in now for identity to be amorphous, where people are not sure."

"They are always so impressionable. It's almost like our culture wants our identity to be nebulous."

"I am not saying that this is advice, but I am saying this, that I've always been a contrary person. If somebody told me, I would try real hard to do it. That's just who I am."

Students arrested

continued from Page 1

A press release by the BCSO states that the incident occurred sometime between March 10 and March 12, on the beach behind Spinnaker Beach Club in Panama City Beach, Florida.

The arrest was made on the evening of April 9 in Troy. The offense listed on the report is "sex offense/sexual battery/forcible rape."

The victim is listed as a 20-year-old female. Corley said the victim is not a Troy University

student.

According to the victim's statement in the report, she arrived at Panama City Beach a few days before her birthday.

"She states that she blacked out at some point during the day, and didn't recall much about the day, but remembers having to get assistance to get back to where she was staying," the report says.

According to Lt. Bryan Weed of the Troy Police Department, the video was first found during the investigation of a shooting that occurred on March 21 at 2:30 a.m. at one of the Waffle House locations in Troy.

"They (detectives) had gained consent to look into one of the people they were talking to's phone, and the video was on the phone," he said. Weed said that the phone "belonged to a student, but I'm not sure if it was the ones that were arrested."

Weed said that initially Troy police was unsure where the incident occurred and reached out to the BCSO in Panama City because "a majority of students go there for spring break."

On April 2, Capt. James Barron of the Troy Police Department contacted Capt. Jimmy Stanford with the BCSO regarding the

video.

"Of course, when Bay County reviewed it and everything, they discovered that it did occur in their jurisdiction, and then they pursued the investigation from there," Weed said. "That was really the extent of our involvement in it other than the fact when they came up to make the arrest we provided them assistance."

According to Weed, the shooting is still under investigation. Two individuals suffered non-life-threatening injuries during the shooting. They were not Troy University students.

Last week at a press conference, Frank McKeithen, sheriff of Bay County, discussed the content of the video and said that hundreds of people could have witnessed the crime and no one stopped it or reported it.

"If you condone this, you should be in jail right along with them as far as I'm concerned," McKeithen said.

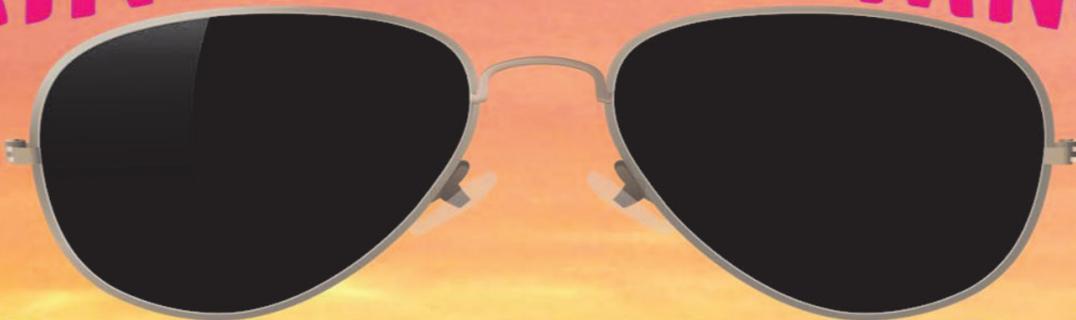
McKeithen said it was no longer safe for children to be on the beaches "when these animals are out there conducting themselves like this."



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Graduation got you down?

Alyse Nelson
Features Editor

“A lot of people waste a lot of time in college,” said graduating senior Philip Agee. “If you actually do anything in college, you would graduate with a real skill and not be so clueless, unprepared and terrified

“I haven’t done anything to prepare,” said Agee, a criminal justice major from Bay Minette. “The only thing I’ve done to prepare is join the Army.”

Agee will be commissioned into the Army as a second lieutenant after graduation in May.

“I have a set career that I am contractually obligated to be in, and I did that on purpose,” he said.

However, Agee still held some regrets about his college career.

“Wasting so much time in college procrastinating and not improving myself,” he said. “If I had started going to the gym as a freshman, I’d be jacked right now.”

As Agee wished that he had begun preparation earlier than his senior year, others have been trying to prepare earlier.

Kelly Evans, a junior psychology major from Paxton, Florida, has almost completed her first semester at Troy since transferring from a community college closer to home.

“I’ll get my bachelor’s and then go to a different college that has my degree program for my master’s,” Evans said. The degree she is pursuing after Troy is one in behavioral therapy. “After that I’ll go into the school system and work with children.”

Having changed her mind to go into this specific field just a few weeks ago, Evans recalls a time that a boy threw a chair in her mother’s classroom and Kelly wondered “what makes people think like that.”

“I’ve kind of been the little therapist to all my friends and family,” she also said. “Whenever they have troubles they come to me.”

“I’m trying to get all my classes out of the way,” Evans said of preparing for a career. “I have a lady that will help me with my internship.”

Having researched her career path, she saw that it will include a large amount of coursework and studying. She has a couple of questions for those who are already working in the field.

“What did you do to keep yourself sane through the coursework?” she said, laughing. “Like is there some sort of yoga or meditation technique?”

Others even earlier in their college careers still have an idea of what they need to be doing, though.

Jordan Ochoa, a freshman Spanish major from Homewood, said that she wants to be a translator.

“I’ve kind of been thinking about doing it at an elementary school, and that way I could help kids learning English,” she said. She also mentioned she was open to the idea of translating in the military.

“I’ve visited Ecuador and stayed there for two weeks, so that helped me immerse in the culture and learn more, and I’ve been taking classes,” she said.

“Probably what to minor in to actually make me look more

professional, like I know what I’m doing,” she said when asked about questions she still had for getting through school and getting into a career. “Because being a Spanish major is good, and it’s good to know another language, but it’s like — what else can you do?”

Staff at Career Services, located on campus in Eldridge Hall room 104, had advice for students in all stages of college.

“If you’re an underclassman, it’ll be career exploration — finding out what type of job you want to do according to a strength,” said Lauren Cole, coordinator of the Troy campus Career Services. “Upper: helping them network, resumes, mock interviews so that students can get some practice.”

“Come as soon as you get to Troy,” said Emily Reiss, career counselor. “We would like to see students visit once a year at a minimum so we can be with

them through their career at Troy and landing them that job by graduation.”

“Students should try to visit their career center earlier in their college career,” Cole agreed about common student mistakes. “Networking with the people in the industry they’re in — that needs to be done earlier so graduation doesn’t come up and they’re lost in the shuffle.”

“Just waiting until the last minute,” Reiss said of mistakes. “When you’re in the last semester of your senior year, we can still help you, but if you had come earlier, we can help a lot more — then we would really know you and can walk you through the process.”

“I think I would have done an internship instead of just working a part-time job during the summer,” said Cole of mistakes that she was guilty of in college. “It makes connections and builds your resume, and it’s

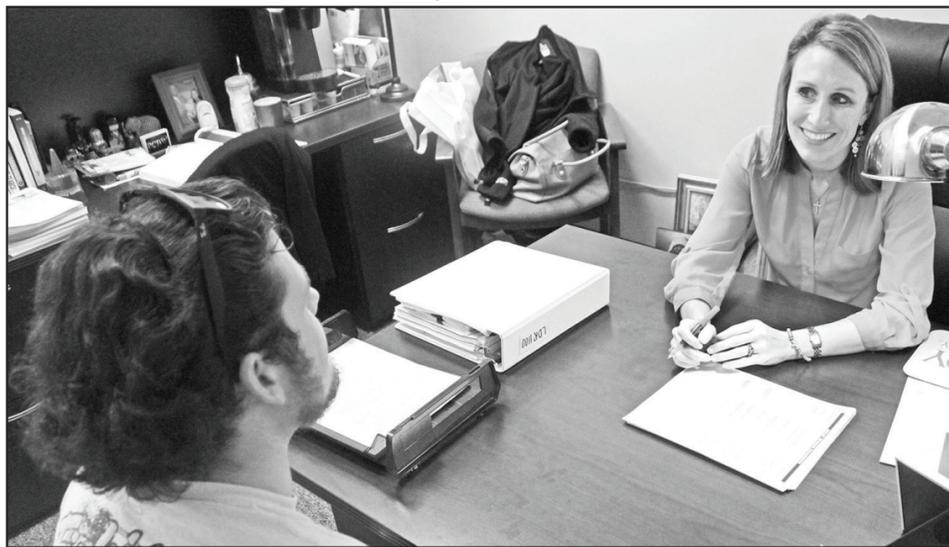
so competitive right now.”

“First, come to the career center,” Cole said, addressing freshmen and those interested in taking steps toward their future careers. “Just talking through their thoughts about their career and what their major is. Even if they don’t walk away with the exact career that they want, just start the conversation.

“It doesn’t have to be just through the career center — if they have family or friends in the industry that they can network with, they can do that on their own.”

It isn’t all just networking, resumes and internships, though. Cole also recommends that students participate in well-rounded activities, such as clubs or studying abroad, to add to their resumes.

“Make sure everything you do gets you one step closer to that job you are looking for,” Reiss said.



Lauren Cole, coordinator of Career Services, gives a student job advice.

Caleb Hicks photo

Troy alumna’s journey to acquiring a career

Alyse Nelson
Features Editor

Emily Jackson Heinkel graduated from Troy with a degree in multimedia journalism in December 2014 and recently landed a job as a content specialist, handling digital marketing, social media and blogging for a company in Athens.

“Basically, preparing for the job market begins the moment you enter college,” Heinkel said.

“I wanted to get skills that I could use in the long term, but it’s kind of backwards because I want to be a missionary abroad. That’s my long-term goal. But right now it’s the best that I get into the job market and make some money, pay off my loans, provide for my family.

“Long term, I want to be able to communicate through a blog and email campaigns so that when I’m a missionary, people can support my mission.”

“One thing that was important for me was having the knowledge and skill to go with it,” Heinkel said. “I feel like I’m a better communicator than I am a journalist, but I went with journalism so I would know how to write, and that’s a tangible skill that I would have to offset other communication skills I have.”



Emily Heinkel

Heinkel went on to explain the benefits she sees in expanding one’s set of skills.

“So I would offset psychology with a business or Spanish degree. That’s what will really set you apart in any kind of business — if you have both an expertise and a skill to go with it.”

Though Heinkel had a plan that she was working to turn into reality upon graduation, the job hunting process was not as simple. After graduating, it took over three months for her to get a job.

“I went on six interviews,” she said. “I was very frustrated throughout the process. It was hard to know. I even turned a lot of things down because they weren’t the salary range I wanted and they weren’t really what I wanted to do.”

In January, Heinkel was offered a marketing position at a company. Not feeling right about it, she walked away from the offer, but said she

experienced some regret as her hunt continued. However, she said she’s “done a lot of unnecessary worrying.”

Two interviews and several weeks later, she was offered the position she currently holds.

“I landed this job, and it’s more flexible,” she said. “I’m working at home a lot, and I’m making double and doing exactly what I

wanted to do.”

“It’s really important not to settle, and it’s really important to do your research,” Heinkel advised. “People will take advantage of you if you don’t know what that position is supposed to make.”

Heinkel mentioned the importance of networking during the job search.

She said that at the

beginning of her search, she sent out an email to about 10 consulting companies in Huntsville about recently graduating and attached her resume.

One of these emails helped her get her current position.

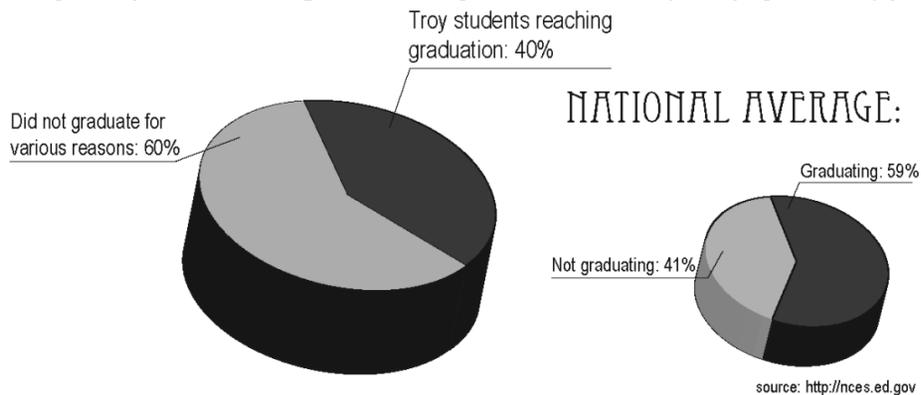
“One thing that was really important for me is I basically made myself a position at their company

because I knew they needed something that I have,” she said.

“I’m the expert in social media marketing, and they didn’t have that.

“That’s really important: if you want to be at a company and be the one they can’t let go of at the end of the day, you have to have something that they don’t have.”

IS GRADUATION THE GOAL?



Alyse Nelson graphic

Senior Vice Chancellor of Student Services John Dew explained the reasoning behind these numbers. These statistics are “based upon first-time, full-time students,” meaning that the 40 percent are those who enter Troy as the first college they have attended, maintain at least 12 hours each semester, and graduate from Troy within six years. The numbers do not account for those who go to a community college and then transfer to Troy.

Dew also said that the national average includes expensive private colleges and elite research institutions that students attend with the intention of graduating, such as Pomona College, which has a graduation rate of over 92 percent, according to usnews.com.

“It requires a lot to actually get to graduation,” Dew said. “I think everyone who walks across that stage should walk proudly.”

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Editorial Board

Consent first

If anyone is unconscious, do not have sex with him or her.

There, we have said it. It is incredible that this had to be published in any form, or that it had to be taught to anyone at all.

We understand that many people come from different backgrounds, and some people are not as privileged as we are. We get it.

However, there are basic facts that one should never have to be taught.

For example, murder and theft are wrong, both legally and morally. These are things you just do not do.

Sex is meant to be pleasurable, but more than that, it is meant to be consensual.

Above all, the two parties must agree to and have knowledge of the intercourse—again, this is right both legally and morally.

So, if one is unable to give consent, then intercourse should not happen, and that includes being under the influence of alcohol.

If someone is so obviously inebriated so that he or she cannot remember, much less make rational decisions, the person is unable to give consent.

Furthermore, this is not an issue specific to gender. One should not put himself or herself into a situation where he or she is that vulnerable.

To repeat: no consent, no sex.

Now, what really bothers us the most about the recent beach situation is the fact that there were numerous people watching this event happen, and nothing was done to help. This strikes us as odd.

Why, in the course of these events, did no one stop to think: “Hey, this is wrong. I should do something.”

In light of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we at the Tropolitan urge you to intervene whenever you see something like this happening, no matter the consequences.

As Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen put it: “Within 10 feet of where this is happening, there are hundreds of people standing there watching ... in our society, our young people have got to the point obviously where this is acceptable.”

He says that it is not acceptable in Bay County; McKeithen is only half right.

It is not acceptable anywhere.

The police can only do so much, and McKeithen said himself that his department received multiple videos regarding this incident.

He said, “I can only imagine how many we haven’t recovered.”

Law enforcement officers are not the only people responsible for dealing with the consequences of these actions. It is up to the individual to make a difference in these situations.

So again, we urge you to take action whenever you see this situation play out.

Do not rely on others to report something when you are able.

Be the one to know what is right and what is wrong. Take a stand.

To graduate or not to graduate

Hannah Hartline
Staff Writer

As the semester wraps up, students are already choosing classes for summer and fall semester. Many of us are getting ready for the next big step: graduation.

The question facing many seniors is whether they are really ready to get out of school and get into the workforce.

The struggle between deciding to stay in school and pursuing another degree has been something on my mind a lot lately as my own time at Troy University draws to a close.

Do I finish and graduate, or should I go to graduate school? What if my major doesn’t help me in what I really want to do? Should I keep going for another minor?

I am a transfer student, so my time here has been shorter than that of many students, and it makes me a little more nervous to graduate from college in the coming weeks. I am not quite sure I am ready to go just yet.

Senior year has been the best year of my college career, and the temptation of adding more skills to my arsenal is hard to resist. I want to take the classes that I think would help me significantly in doing what I love in the future.

However, I have taken all but one required class to graduate. In doing so, I have amassed more than \$18,000 in student loans. For me, I know that college cannot last forever.

I know many college seniors are facing a similar financial dilemma. Some may want to pursue higher education after receiving their bachelor’s degrees, but there are so many factors to take into consideration.

Graduate school can be an option for some students, but there are upsides and downsides.

On one hand, a graduate degree might open opportunities that may not be available to students with just a bachelor’s degree. It can add up in the potential earnings that higher education may bring.

Nathan Smith, a junior computer



Hannah Crews photo

Kirsten Henry, a senior biomedical sciences major from Hunstville, looks over a fall 2015 class schedule. She is staying an extra semester so that she was not overloaded during this semester.

science major from Florala, said that his desire to teach higher education has influenced his decision about attending graduate school.

Smith said that with a master’s degree, the average entry level salary in his field goes up \$20,000.

“So it (graduate school) comes with its benefits,” Smith said.

Yet, the programs are small and there is a chance that, depending on

physical education student from Andalusia, wanted to become a dance teacher.

“I was in the physical education program in hopes of one day teaching dance and tumbling,” Lloyd said. “To be a dance teacher, there is no certification or degree requirement.

“Because I was getting a loan, by the time I graduated in 2016 I would have had \$44,000 worth of debt to do a job I didn’t need a degree for.”

Lloyd dropped out of college without a degree, and began working instead in her hometown as a dance and tumbling instructor at a local gym.

Graduating, graduate school, or choosing an alternate path is all about commitment.

“Know your end result,” Smith said. “If you are committed, you will succeed.”

Some students may even choose to extend their college experience because they have yet to receive a competitive job offer.

There is no right or wrong answer for which direction to go now as the semester draws to a close. Ultimately, Trojans, the choice is yours. Only you know what is best for yourself. That is the perk and the cost of growing up.

“If you are committed you will succeed.”

the program, the job outlook may not be as promising as you hope.

And for some students, the idea of taking more student loans is worth less in the long run. Some dreams do not need a degree.

Melanie Lloyd, a former Troy



Seth Nicholson

Say WHAT?

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

Why do you think people would watch a gang rape in progress?



“Some were probably under the influence of drugs or alcohol, so their judgment was off, and those who weren’t were probably too scared to say anything.”

— Ashley Nelms, a junior biomedical sciences major from Hayden.



“The majority could have been too drunk to remember anything or too busy worried about their next drink ... don’t know which is worse.”

— Kevin Carter, a senior economics major from Crestview, Florida.



“People more than likely weren’t coherent enough to realize what was going on. That being said, I’m confused as to how no one amongst such a crowd picked up on what was happening.”

— George Holmes, a junior graphic design major from Hurtsboro.



“I would hope they were being forced to ‘look away’ or fear for their own well-being would be the only reason someone would let something like that go on and not try to stop it or find someone who could stop it.”

— Courtney Wood, a senior biomedical sciences major from Troy.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

As Troy University’s official student newspaper, the Tropolitan strives to serve student interests. The Opinion page is an outlet for Tropolitan editors to question university policies that do not benefit Troy’s students, praise those that do and call attention to national and state issues that relate to students. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Troy University or the Hall School of Journalism and Communication.

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Guest Columns

The Tropolitan encourages students, faculty and staff at Troy University to express opinions in a guest column of

500-700 words. Dissenting opinions are welcomed, but all expressions are the sole opinion of their author and do not reflect the beliefs of the Tropolitan.

Letters to the Editor

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

The Tropolitan does not exclusively print letters fa-

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

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

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

THE TROY UNIVERSITY TROPOLITAN

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Guitar, flute concert to explore music history

Michael Shipma
Staff Writer

The John M. Long School of Music will present a guitar and flute concert performed by Robert Gibson and Rachel Nozny on Friday, April 17, in the Sorrell Chapel.

The concert, entitled "Duo R2," is scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

"Each piece features (Gibson and Nozny)," Nozny said. "They are all duo pieces, and they all span over different time periods."

Between the two, Nozny and Gibson combine for over 50 years of experience playing their instruments, with Nozny performing on the flute, and Gibson handling guitar.

The music that will be played will range from the early 19th century to more modern and contemporary arrangements of guitar and flute duets.

The concert will seek to take its audience through a history of the instruments through listening to the progression in style and melodies.

Nozny and Gibson said they are encouraging people attending the concert to arrive early, as seats will fill up quickly.

Both Nozny and Gibson said they are anticipating a good crowd to come to the concert, and are encouraging not only students but also the average local music lover to attend as well.

"Anyone who has never been to a faculty concert, who is interested in either of our instruments, or who has never really been to a Troy concert, this

will be a great introduction for them," Nozny said.

Both faculty members said they are hoping that the concert will help give potential students from area high schools a better idea of who the instructors are as well as the style and performances that take place at the university.

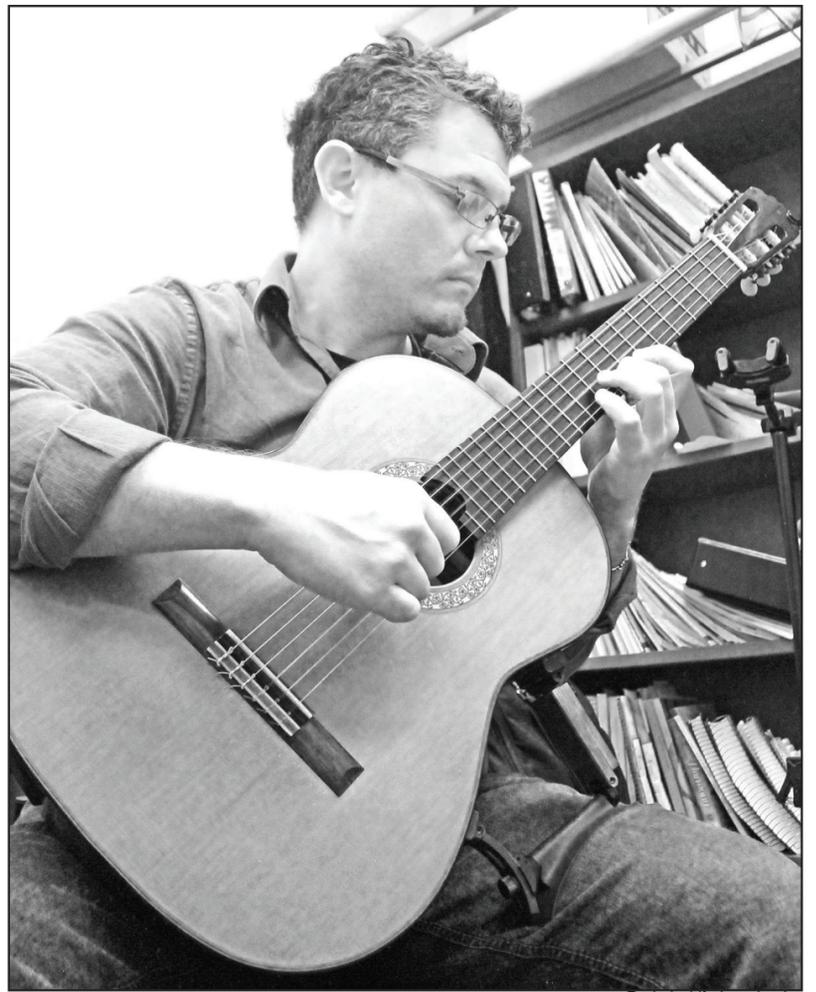
"Our performances will range from the early 19th century flute and guitar repertoire all the way through more modern pieces," Gibson said.

The concert will consist of five arrangements that will feature 19th century works from Mauro Giuliani and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, to more contemporary pieces composed by Toru Takemitsu and Astor Piazzolla. The concert will also feature a piece written by Tucker McKee, a junior at Troy University.

Both performers said they believe that the concert will be very audience-friendly and will invoke imagery through the melodies and harmonies of the music being played.

"The 'Towards the Sea' piece by Takemitsu, for example, will call for an alto flute, which is a bigger flute," Nozny said. "I will be using a lot of extended techniques to invoke imagery from the ocean."

The concert will be educational as well as entertaining in nature, focusing on showcasing the work and skill of the two instructors to give both students and local attendees a perspective on the work they are doing at Troy.



Caleb Hicks photo

Robert Gibson, an adjunct faculty member for the music department, will be performing with his guitar.

Tea and swing dancing to bridge gap

Michael Shipma
Staff Writer

Troy University's Tea for Troy will hold its second annual British Tea Formal at First Baptist Church in Troy on Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the event can be purchased for \$5 by either contacting a member of the Tea for Troy staff or messaging one of them on the Tea for Troy Facebook page.

Tea for Troy is a campus organization that engages students in the culture and tradition of tea to bring together students from different backgrounds in a social environment.

Jamie Bennett, a junior English major from Jacksonville, Florida, works with Tea for Troy to put on events such as the formal.

"We are attempting to bring the international and American students together through the commonality of tea," Bennett said.

The group meets every other Thursday in Hal Hall at 7 p.m. Activities for these meetings include presentations from speakers for the ethnicity that the featured tea represents, as well as drinking tea and games.

Bennett said that the formal seeks to have some of these same activities from their regular meetings in a special, more formal setting. Because space is limited for an event of this size on campus, the formal will take place in the First Baptist Church's recreation center.

"We had (our first formal) last year, but we honestly didn't expect the amount of people that showed up," Bennett said. "Everyone had fun, but we wanted to make sure we had more space for this year."

That extra space will be used for swing dancing and socializing, as students are given the opportunity to transcend ethnic diversity through tea.

A photo booth will be set up in the rec center for students, as well as a designated area for activities and games for those who may not want to dance.



Tea for Troy photo

Hannah Stone, a senior design technology and industry major from Huntingtown, Maryland, and Christian Pummerer, a former exchange student from Germany, dancing at last year's Tea for Troy formal.

In addition to tea being provided at the event, there will also be party foods served for those who attend. Free transportation to and from First Baptist Church will also be provided for students in front of Pace Hall prior to the event.

The money collected through ticket sales will be used almost solely for paying for the venue. Bennett stated

that money not used for paying for events like this will go to keeping Tea for Troy going and for providing tea for the students.

"We really aren't focused on making money through events like this," Bennett said. "We really are more focused on getting the American and international students together to sort of bridge the gap."

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Advisers living dream

Tori Roper
Staff Writer

Being advisers to over 700 students can be no easy job, but two individuals have taken up this arduous task and found it rewarding.

Justin Lampley and Megan Simon are the international students' advisers at Troy, and the two are new faces in the international office.

Lampley began working in August, and Simon joined him in December.

Lampley had spent three years teaching English as a second language in South Korea prior to becoming an adviser at Troy. He also completed his master's degree in Australia.

Lampley became interested in Asian culture and liked the fact that 75 percent of the international students at Troy come from Asia.

"I wanted to work in either student services or with ESL students, and I wanted to stay in the Southeast," Lampley said. "It ended up working out really well with Troy."

"I was really intrigued with how many international students there are in Troy."

Simon taught Spanish at different high schools in Florida while also advising the international students who attended the schools.

"Teaching was my full-time job," said Simon of her previous job experience. "I wanted to work with the international students full time."

Simon also personally knows what it's like to be a student in a foreign country. During her undergraduate studies, Simon did a study abroad program in Spain.

"It's nice when people help you when you are an international student," she said of her experiences as an international student.

Lampley's duties include helping students navigate the complex immigration system, getting work permits and Social Security numbers, and making sure all students have proper health insurance.

"Housing is my specialty," Simon said. "I also help the students do their taxes

and help students who are traveling."

Simon also handles correspondence with students before they come to Troy, giving them information they need to know prior to their arrival in the U.S.

Lampley said he enjoys interacting with the students. "We do a lot of gatherings, barbecues and field trips," he said.

"We get to shape their perspective of the U.S. and of the South," said Lampley on the rewards of his job. "Many come to the U.S. with stereotypes. As advisers, we are some of the first impressions that they see."

"Students feel really grateful when you do anything for them; it can be the littlest thing," Simon said. "It's nice when people are thankful for things you do."

Although there are many rewards of being international advisers, as it is with any job, Lampley and Simon also face some challenges.

According to Lampley, they get a lot of students having financial difficulties.

"A lot want to work while they study, but there are a lot of restrictions on international students working," he said. "Some have to transfer to less expensive schools."

"Telling students 'no' is tough. They ask favors of us, and sometimes we have to say 'no' because we have to follow certain guidelines."

Simon also said that things like doing taxes can be frustrating for some students, and helping them through that can prove difficult.

"Seeing student frustration and not being able to do anything about it is hard," she said.

According to Lampley, as many students are accustomed to different teaching styles and academic backgrounds, they can struggle to adapt to the American teaching methods and academic regulations for essay writing. He said that he encourages those students to take advantage of the resources on campus.

"A lot of the international students want an American conversation partner," Simon said. "A lot of times, they just have trouble reaching out and making



Hannah McGaha photo

Justin Lampley and Megan Simon are the new advisers for Troy University's international student population. Both have previous experience as international students and teachers of ESL and Spanish.

American friends."

Simon said that American students can easily help them adjust. "Reach out. Befriend someone in your class, and talk to them. Don't isolate them."

Lampley expressed his love for his job in being able to see "the perspective that they (international students) bring to campus" changing once they get used to it.

"It helps me see that we all have

something in common, to see how small the world really has become," he said.

"I love learning about other cultures, and I learn something every day," Simon said. "I think it's important for us to understand the world around us because there's so much out there. It's more than this small little area that we live in."

"I hope having the international students here helps the students and the city of Troy," she said.

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Track team smokes the Jaguars

Jill Odum
Sports Editor

The Troy track and field team left the USA Invitational victorious with a first-place overall win for the team on Saturday, April 11.

Troy traveled to Mobile on Thursday, April 10, and competed against 16 teams, including Sun Belt rivals South Alabama, UL Lafayette and Arkansas State.

Sophomores Aleeah Stigarll and Riley Schwietz got things started for the Trojans on Thursday.

They both competed in the women's heptathlon, with Stigarll finishing fifth and Schwietz following close behind in seventh place.

During the seven-event contest, Schwietz set four new personal records.

The first full day of the USA Invitational took place Friday, April 10.

Senior Alexis Cobbs raised the bar as she claimed first place in triple jump, making an 11.75-meter leap.

Freshman Joevar James earned third place in the men's javelin with a 59.54-meter throw on Friday as well.

On Saturday, the Trojans



Joshua Thurston photo

Junior Julia Ostendorf won the women's 3,000-meter run and earned the Troy track and field team 10 points. She also finished second in the women's 1,500-meter run and set a new personal record.

dominated the women's competition, racking up 172, while runner-up South Alabama trailed by nearly 30 points.

Troy won 28 of its points with the help of freshman Sydney Wright's performance in two individual events and one team relay.

Wright won the women's 100-meter

dash and the 200-meter dash, while senior Paige McMillan clinched second place in the 200-meter dash.

Fellow freshman Niata Alexander also contributed to the team's win with a first-place finish of her own in the women's 400-meter dash.

Alexander earned 10

points for Troy and broke her previous time with a 56.83-second dash.

Teammate sophomore Dallas Worthy snatched a second-place finish in the same event with a time of 57.43 seconds.

In the women's 4x400-meter relay, Worthy, McMillan, Wright and Alexander were able

to cross the finish line at 3:51.43, collecting a second-place finish.

Junior Cameia Alexander, Cobbs, McMillan and Wright also earned second place in the women's 4x100 relay.

Two more Trojans swept an event: junior Julia Ostendorf and sophomore Katrina Bokenfohr took

the women's 3,000-meter run.

Ostendorf won 10 team points by finishing first at 10:23.09, and Bokenfohr was right behind her in second place.

During the women's 1,500-meter run, Ostendorf set a new personal record and took home second while freshman Sara Zylstra finished in fifth.

In the women's field events, freshman Corina Cox picked up fifth in the discus. Freshman Jaevyn Worthham set a new personal record in the same event with a 46.48-meter toss.

Two more Trojans took home runner-up finishes, including sophomore Sean Kent in the men's 3,000-meter run and sophomore Cameron Rice in the men's 200-meter dash.

Freshman Dylan Ogburn broke his previous record in the men's 1,500-meter run, while in the field events, senior Demetris Elia place fifth in the men's hammer throw.

Troy travels to Auburn for the War Eagle Invitational on Friday, April 17, and Saturday, April 18.

Texas State snaps Troy's win streak

Michael Shipma
Staff Writer

The Troy softball team lost two out of three games in its series at Texas State on Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12.

The losses Troy suffered in the final two games snapped a seven-game win streak for the Trojans (25-19, 8-7 Sun Belt), who are currently fifth in the Sun Belt standings.

The Trojans forced a split in the doubleheader on Saturday against the Bobcats (24-19, 8-6 Sun Belt), who were on a three-game losing streak headed into the series.

The Bobcats drew first blood in the first game, with senior pinch runner Alli Akina stealing home on a throwing error in the bottom of the third inning.

Troy responded quickly, though, when senior first baseman Michelle Phelps hit an RBI double to tie the game 1-1 in the fourth.

Phelps scored later in the same inning on a dropped fly ball that was hit by junior left fielder Amanda Winters.

Phelps came back in the fifth inning with an RBI single to left field, making the score 3-1 in favor of Troy. It retained this lead for the remainder of the game.

Senior pitcher Jaycee Affeldt pitched another solid game, allowing only one run on two hits and

recording eight strikeouts.

Freshman pitcher Randi Rupp struck out a grand total of 14 Trojan batters, but gave up five hits, enough for Troy to hold on to the victory.

Troy took this momentum into the second game of the doubleheader, and looked as if it might come away with another win early in the game.

Phelps hit a two-run bomb over the left field wall to put the Trojans up in the top of the first, but Texas State responded with two runs of its own in the same inning to make it 2-2.

Freshman second baseman Erica Davis hit a solo homer in the second inning to reclaim the lead for the Trojans, making the score 3-2. It was the last run the visiting Trojans scored in the game.

The Bobcats exploded offensively in the next four innings, scoring nine unanswered runs to end the game an inning early via mercy rule.

Seven different players recorded a hit against the Trojans, who struggled to find an answer for the steady stream of runs scored by Texas State.

When it was all said and done, the scoreboard read 11-3 in favor of the Bobcats, snapping Troy's win streak.

The Trojans again looked as if they might

come away with a win in the final game of the series, but were just shy of victory due to the hitting of Texas State.

Junior shortstop Kate Benton brought in the first run of the game with an RBI single to put the Trojans up in the second inning.

Sophomore center fielder Kimberlin Naivar responded for the Bobcats with an RBI double in the bottom of the second inning.

Freshman center fielder Carli Kayler hit an RBI double in the third inning that brought in two runs for the Trojans to go up 3-1.

Texas State clawed its way back into the game, however, with two runs in the sixth inning, which tied the game at 3.

A walk-off RBI double in the bottom of the seventh from freshman shortstop Ariel Ortiz completed the comeback.

The Trojans returned to action on Tuesday, April 14, when they traveled to Tallahassee, Florida, and beat Florida A&M 2-0. Head to tropnews.com for the full story on Troy's Tuesday game.

Troy stays on the road to face off against Georgia Southern on April 18 and 19.

Tennis regular season wrapped up with wins

Ty Ammons
Staff Writer

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

The women's team played against Samford on Wednesday, April 8, and the men's team played North Florida on Friday, April 9. Both teams had matches on Sunday, April 12.

The women's team defeated Samford 4-3 on April 8 in Troy.

Junior Trang Huynh won her line one singles match against senior Stephanie N'tcha 7-6, 6-3.

Freshman Jiayuan Xue won her line three singles match against junior Jessica Northcutt 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

Freshman Linnea Skymberg won her line five singles match against junior Iva Parapunova 6-1, 6-3.

Huynh and Xue won their line one doubles match 8-3 against N'tcha and junior Carita Moolman.

Junior Anja Cosovic and freshman Sanae Ohta won line three doubles 8-2 against Parapunova and senior AnnMarie Lyon.

Line two doubles was unfinished. The women's tennis team finished its regular season with senior night and blanked Florida A&M 4-0 on Sunday, April 12, also at home.

Huynh won line one singles against junior Symone Townsend 6-2, 6-2.

Ohta won line two singles against junior Alexis Dean 6-2, 6-1.

Xue beat junior Shantal Blackwood to win line three singles 6-1, 6-1.

Line four, five and six singles were unfinished.

Huynh and Xue won line one doubles 8-1 against Townsend and senior Elysia Ortiz.

Junior Brooke Durden and Skymberg won line two doubles against Blackwood and sophomore Arrice Robinson 8-4.

Line three doubles was unfinished. The men's first matchup of the week

was in Jacksonville, Florida, against No. 67 North Florida on Thursday, April 9.

North Florida had won its past six out of seven games, but Troy shut out the Ospreys with ease, 4-0.

Sophomore Hassan Ndayishimye won his line two singles match 7-6, 7-5 against sophomore Yannick Zuern.

Freshman Andy Lau won line three singles against freshman Lasse Muscheites 6-4, 6-4.

Sophomore Pablo Moreno won his line five singles match 6-2, 7-5, against sophomore Zach Goldberg.

Line one, four and six singles were unfinished.

Moreno and junior Giovanni Samaha won line one doubles against Muscheites and Goldberg 8-3.

Lau and junior Gabriel Dias won their line two doubles match 8-2 against junior Julian Bradley and senior Norbert Nemcsek.

Line three doubles was unfinished.

Troy's men's tennis team finished its regular season on senior day and faced off against UAB in Troy, winning 6-1.

Dias won his line one singles match against junior Mitchell Martell 4-6, 6-1, 1-0.

Ndayishimye won his line two singles match against junior Luiz Felipe Pinto 6-2, 6-1.

Lau won line three singles 6-2, 6-4 against senior Donovan McSeveney.

Moreno won line five singles against junior Stepan Vancurik 3-6, 7-6, 1-0.

Samaha won line six singles 6-1, 6-3 against freshman Oliver Poysti.

Moreno and Samaha won line one doubles against McSeveney and sophomore Christian Coetzee 8-5.

Lau and Dias won line two doubles 8-3 against sophomore Trey McCombs and Martell.

Line three doubles was unfinished.

Both men's and women's tennis teams start the Sun Belt Conference Championship on Thursday, April 16, in New Orleans.

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Hunting the hunters

The Trojans sweep the Red Wolves and leap to third place in the Sun Belt

Wes Fortson
Staff Writer

The Troy baseball team swept Arkansas State over the past weekend in a three-game home series that started on Friday, April 10.

The series sweep catapulted the Trojans into a tie for third in the Sun Belt Conference.

Game one of the series was postponed due to rain on Friday night and forced the teams to play a doubleheader on Saturday, April 11.

The first game of the doubleheader kicked off at 2 p.m., and with the help of freshman left fielder Reid Long, Troy knocked off the Red Wolves 3-1.

Both teams were held scoreless until the bottom of the fifth, when Long lifted a two-run homer out to right center field to put the Trojans on top 2-0.

Later, senior designated hitter David Hall hit an RBI single to left, scoring junior right fielder Logan Hill for a security run in the eighth.

Junior pitcher Grant Bennett pitched a complete game for Troy, and didn't allow a run until the top of the ninth when Arkansas State scored its lone run on a sacrifice fly ball to right field.

Bennett picked up his seventh win of the season, which leads the Sun Belt Conference. His 1.94 ERA also stands as the third best in the conference.

In game two of the Saturday doubleheader, the Trojans denied the Red Wolves once again in a 4-2 showdown.

This time junior pitcher Lucas Brown took the mound for Troy and struck out six batters in 7 2/3 innings of work.

Arkansas State struck first in the top of the first inning on a sacrifice fly ball to center field that scored junior center fielder Austin Baker.

Troy didn't answer until the bottom of the fourth, when Hill hit an RBI single up the middle to score senior center fielder Clay Holcomb.

The very next batter, senior first baseman Trevin Hall, ripped a double to left center, knocking Hill home and putting Troy on top 2-1.

In the top of the fifth, the Red Wolves tied the game up when redshirt senior third baseman Zach George walked, allowing senior left fielder Ty Michelotti to trot to home plate.

The following inning, the Trojans took the lead back for good when senior designated hitter Jo-El Bennett hit a single to left field to score Hill.

Then freshman shortstop Matt Sanders hit a sacrifice bunt to the pitcher that scored Trevin Hall from third



Jennifer Carlisle photo

Freshman Corey Childress pitched one inning on Sunday, April 12, and struck out one batter.

and brought the final score to 4-2.

Troy completed the series sweep on Sunday, April 12, with a tight 6-5 battle for the victory.

The Trojans took a quick lead in the first on an RBI single by Hill to score Holcomb from second.

However, both teams were kept quiet until the fifth inning, when the Red Wolves tied the game on a pair of well-placed hits.

In the sixth inning, Arkansas State took a slight lead when sophomore second baseman Joe Schrimpf singled to center field, allowing junior third baseman Tanner Ring to score.

Troy answered back once again in the bottom of the inning and scored when sophomore first baseman TJ Binder ground out to third base, but junior pinch runner Cameron Sanders rushed home on the play and tied up the game 2-2.

The Red Wolves didn't go down without a fight, though. Baker picked up an RBI for the Red Wolves in the seventh and stole back the lead.

The Trojans established their dominance in the eighth inning with four runs on three bunts, two walks and a

few hits by a well-executed offense that brought the score to 6-3.

"We got some big hits down the stretch to set that inning up in the eighth," said head coach Bobby Pierce. "We got some nice bunts down and executed that very well. It's something we've worked on in practice, so I was real happy to see the guys execute in those critical moments."

Arkansas State still battled in the top of the ninth inning with a two-run shot by Ring that brought the Red Wolves within one.

Senior pitcher Jeremy McGowan slammed the door shut on the Wolves, got the final two outs for Troy and completed the sweep as he picked up his third win of the season.

Troy played Samford on Tuesday night and lost 13-2 in Birmingham. Head to tropnews.com for the full story on Troy's Tuesday game.

Troy will be back on the diamond against UT-Arlington in a conference series on the road starting on April 17.

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



June 8, 2015 – Deadline to File

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