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Softball team wins Stetson Invitational Sports, pg. 10



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Nationally famous Troy professor passes *Stanton Evans, who helped found conservative movement, dies at 80*

Joshua Richards
Staff Writer

M. Stanton Evans, a distinguished author, educator and journalist, died Tuesday from pancreatic cancer, according to a friend. He was 80.

Evans began teaching at Troy University in 1980 as a visiting professor, according to Troy University's website. He later became an adjunct professor in the university's journalism department, where he taught editorial writing and specialized in print journalism.

A leading figure in America's conservative movement, he spent several years as chairman of the American Conservative Union, "the oldest and largest grassroots conservative organization in the nation," according to the group's website.

Evans wrote the manifesto to the movement, The Sharon Statement, when he was 26, before becoming editor of the Indianapolis News. The statement shared the principles upon which he and a group of conservatives founded the Young Americans for Freedom group, according to

heritage.org.

Throughout his life, Evans authored many books, including "Blacklisted by History," published in 2007, in which Evans wrote what he believed to be the truth about Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

He also appeared as a commentator on several television and radio programs.

Evans was loved and respected by his Troy University colleagues.

Kate Rowinsky, the secretary of the Hall School of Journalism and Communication, and a friend of Evans, said that he was always charming.

"His eyes always twinkled," Rowinsky said. "He could be very headstrong, too. He didn't like computers, so I would do things with them so he didn't have to. It wasn't that he couldn't use them, it was just that he didn't want to."

Wanda Norris, a senior broadcast journalism major from Phenix City, also said that she feels grateful for the impact that he has had on her life.

"He was never a stranger," Norris said. "I

See **Evans**, page 2



Contributed by Wanda Norris

Wanda Norris, a senior broadcast journalism major from Phenix City, with M. Stanton Evans, a leader in communication and the modern conservative movement. He died Tuesday from pancreatic cancer, a friend said.

Serial soaper strikes again



Josh Richards photo

Willie McClain and Damien Knight, physical plant employees, clean the fountain after it was soaped as a possible prank for the second time. Andrew Ellis, director of university relations, said the university wishes for students to know that there are consequences to actions that seem fun and harmless, and that it costs the university when pranks, like soaping the fountain, happen.

Prank takes resources needed for university maintenance

Josh Richards
Staff Writer

Troy University's resident prankster has soaped the fountain again.

Andrew Ellis, director of university relations, said that while it may seem like a harmless prank, soaping the fountain adds to the cost of maintaining the university's operations.

"It's a matter of operating the university," Ellis said. "We maintain our grounds and try to keep our buildings nice. Anytime you encounter things that disrupt the day-to-day routine, it makes a difference."

Ellis said that activities like soaping the fountain are disruptive not only in cost, but also in productivity.

"Not only does (soaping the fountain) require cleaning once it

happens, but it also requires the workforce to be reallocated," Ellis said. "They end up doing things like cleaning the fountain when they could be doing things like cleaning the grounds or working on buildings."

Mark Salmon, director of the university's physical plant, said in a previous interview that the cost to clean the fountain ranges from \$200 to \$600. He was not available for follow-up information.

"There are unforeseen consequences I wouldn't expect students to think about," he said. "But the point we want to get across is that even if it's done in fun, sometimes it comes with costs."

As of yet, no one has been held responsible for the prank.

Ellis said that while there is no set method of applying consequences for the crime, the prankster or prank-

sters, if caught, would possibly be subject to the disciplinary process of student services.

Preventive measures, like cameras or monitors, have not yet been mentioned, Ellis said. However, they have not been ruled out.

"I am not aware of any discussion of (prevention) right now," Ellis said. "That's not to say that someone hasn't mentioned the possibility."

"The important thing for students to realize is that there is a cost involved in maintaining the university. We feel like we have a beautiful campus. We want students to be able to enjoy it, and we want visitors to this campus to have the type of experience that we all enjoy as part of the Troy family. We just want to make sure the awareness is there."

First lady park project recognized

Cassie Gibbs
News Editor

The Environmental Protection Agency, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Alabama Power Co. have recognized a wetlands restoration project in connection with the Janice Hawkins Park on Troy University's campus.

This project is one of 10 projects in the region that were recognized.

Mark Salmon, the director of the university's physical plant and the "Persimmon Branch Wetlands Enhancement" project, said that the university has received between \$200,000 and \$300,000 in grants.

"We're hopeful that as we go forward, we can secure several million dollars more toward future projects," Salmon said.

Jim Bookout, senior vice chancellor of finance and business affairs and the co-director of the enhancement project, was not able to give the total amount of funds received by the university for the project.

Salmon said that Hawkins played a major role in the changes at Troy that resulted in the campus known today.

He said that once the park was established in Hawkins' name, he, Jim Bookout and Janice Hawkins developed a three-step plan to enhance Troy's campus.

"It's divided into three phases," Salmon said. "The

See **Hawkins**, page 3



Caitlin Collins photo

The lagoon may have a boardwalk built around it as part of the Janice Hawkins Park project, which includes wetlands restoration.



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Environmental Club holds wildlife rehabilitation talk

Destiny Hosmer
Staff Writer

Troy University's Environmental Club hosted a presentation from the Big Bend Wildlife Rehabilitation Center on Tuesday.

The Big Bend Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is a nonprofit organization, based in Enterprise, dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick, abandoned and injured wildlife, and to the education of people and how to live cohesively with wildlife.

Terry and John Morse, wildlife rehabilitators at Big Bend, brought five birds to show the audience. They gave a presentation discussing various dangers to wildlife as well as their own experiences with rehabilitating animals.

Terry Morse warned pet owners to be responsible for their pets and not allow them to disturb or injure wildlife.

"Domestic and feral cats are the top threat to U.S. wildlife," Morse said. "Cats kill between 6.3 and 22.3 billion small

mammals and reptiles each year."

Terry said that dogs often catch and injure animals that they do not need for food, and they frequently destroy ground nests.

In addition to other animals, human cruelty and ignorance can prove to be fatal for wildlife as well.

"Humans fear what they don't understand," Terry said.

Contrary to popular belief, possums very seldom carry rabies. Big Bend has cared for possums in the past that have been mutilated by humans who feared the diseases they believed they carried.

"I definitely thought that possums carried rabies," said Emily Call, a sophomore political science major from Rolla, Missouri. "Now that I've learned differently, I want to spread that information."

"I was shocked to hear about how often human cruelty resulted in the injury and death of wildlife."

According to Terry, sec-

ondhand poisoning can be a threat when pesticides are used on bugs that are later consumed by birds. Even seemingly harmless ways of ridding homes of pests, such as sticky fly strips, can catch small birds and bats as well.

"I didn't know about secondhand poisoning; I had no idea that it was possible," said Mikala Chenault, a sophomore hospitality and tourism major from Keizer, Oregon.

With spring break approaching, Big Bend is expecting to care for a large number of orphaned and injured baby animals. They urge those who are interested to volunteer.

No background experience is needed to become a volunteer. Big Bend holds training days where volunteers learn how to work with animals.

Volunteers can choose what they want to do, whether that be cleaning, mowing the grass, or working one-on-one with the animals. Those who are interested can call 334-447-8110.



Circle K photo

Troy University Circle K members at 57th Annual Alabama District Convention in Mobile.

Circle K scores big win

Lily Casolaro
Staff Writer

Troy University Circle K International received numerous awards at the 57th Annual Alabama District Convention in Mobile.

The convention was held from Feb. 27 to March 1.

Circle K International is the world's largest student-led service organization focused on "service, leadership, and fellowship," according to the group's website.

Troy's Circle K received 12 individual and club awards, which showcased the unique sacrifices of Alabama Circle K-ers.

Treasurer Shelby Lyons, Secretary Jordan Morris, and Junior Board Representative Katie Marshall received the David C. Womack Distinguished Club Officer awards because of their "exemplary services in club administration as a club officer," the website said.

Jordan Morris, a sophomore science education major from Dothan and treasurer of Troy's Circle K, said it was rewarding to be recognized at the convention.

"I enjoyed hearing about the successes of other Circle K clubs, and I am so proud of our club," Morris said. "It was rewarding to know that my hard work was noticed, and I am thankful to the Circle K members for making my job worthwhile."

Troy Circle K President Elizabeth Brazier received the Steve A. Means Distinguished Club President award for

outstanding service as club president and placed first in the Impromptu Essay Contest.

She wrote on the topic: "If you could create one large-scale service project, what would it be, why, and how would you implement it?"

Troy's Circle K was also recognized for its fundraising efforts of \$215 for the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental organization and donations to the Head Start teachers.

The club placed third for the Club Achievement Award, which "recognizes clubs which excel in all aspects of club operation," the website said.

The club also won second place for the club scrapbook contest and first place in the club T-shirt design contest.

Troy's Circle K joined over 100 K-ers throughout Alabama. Attendees participated in leadership training, and Circle K clubs and their members' achievements were celebrated.

The convention featured key speakers Cathy Dean Gafford, a former Circle K member from Dothan and the director of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental, and Alvin "Peck" Fox, former Circle K International vice president.

Brazier, a senior mathematics major from Panama City, Florida, said she was proud of all the accomplishments of the club and its members.

"Seeing members enjoying time with each other and making new friends with other Circle K-ers made me really proud of our club members," Brazier said.

Evans

continued from page 1

walked in (to the communication building) as a stranger, but he didn't talk to me as one. He was sweet, and he was such a gentleman.

"He was fun, and he was also serious. You never had a doubt that you were dealing with a great mind. He always seemed to assess and decide whether he should participate in a conversation or whether he should listen or lead. And he was always right."

Jeff Spurlock, the director of the Hall School of Journalism and Communication, said that he remembered Evans' intelligence the most.

"Stan's one of the most intelligent people I've ever known," Spurlock said. "He had a wealth of knowledge about anything and everything, no matter if it was the Civil War, World War II, Plato, Socrates, the Beatles or Bob Dylan. He had such knowledge about everything."

"He was the type of man you could sit down and have a drink with and talk about anything."

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SGA votes to create international seat

Destiny Hosmer
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association voted to create an international seat in the senate on Tuesday.

Joe McCall, a history lecturer and adviser for the International Student Cultural Organization, spoke to the senate before the vote about the need for an international chair. McCall said that there is an obvious lack of international students in SGA, and that this deficiency should be addressed.

"I feel so strongly that they need to have a voice in this forum," McCall said.

There is currently only one international student in the senate, and Jonathan Lockwood, an international relations graduate student from Redding, California, said, "There are about 717 international students at this university, which is about 15 percent."

The previous amendment in

the SGA's code of laws stated that the senate be composed of 45 members in the following areas: housing, academic, at-large, and one graduate student to represent the graduate school.

The new amendment states that the senate be composed of 46 members, with the addition of one international student to represent the international academic program.

During the meeting, several senators expressed their agreements and reservations with the proposal before it was passed.

Caitlin Smith, a sophomore political science major from Panama City, Florida, and a senator, said she supported the amendment.

"I highly encourage this bill," Smith said. "I feel like we have such a melting pot in this school and I feel like the international students do need to be represented as well in the SGA."

Before the amendment was passed, only five of the six

academic areas were represented in the SGA.

In response to the passing of this amendment, Mac-Jane Chukwu, an international relations graduate student from Nigeria, said that the amendment was an important move for the international community on campus.

"It means a lot to us (international students)," Chukwu said. "It means we get to share our culture with SGA and have a say in what's going on."

"Being that this is an international campus, we want the diversity to be represented properly in academics, sports, food, and every aspect of the campus. So this is something great for us."

International students are not limited to run for this new seat. Every at-large position is available to them as well.

At-large senate elections will be held Wednesday, March 25. Applications are due Friday, March 20.



Brenna Patrick photo

Jonathan Lockwood (left), senator at large, hands Jorge Solis, vice president of legislative affairs, the amendment that creates a seat for the international student community.

Events promote water safety during spring break

Lilly Casolaro
Staff Writer

Troy University campus organizations are hosting activities to promote water safety during spring break.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.'s Omicron Pi Chapter, Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol (G.A.M.M.A) and Trojan Outreach are all sponsors for the events.

Festivities kicked off on March 2, in Claudia Crosby Theatre with key speaker, Martina McClendon, Olympic medalist and the first African-American woman to make the U.S. Olympic swim team.

Sigma Gamma Rho partnered with USA Swimming to launch SWIM 1922: Spring Breaks the Cycle of Drowning, an initiative that seeks to educate students of the risks and benefits of swimming.

The partnership of Sigma Gamma Rho and USA Swimming "seeks to strengthen USA Swimming's commitment to Diversity and Inclusion... to increase swim participation and decrease drowning rates in the

community," according to U.S.A. Swimming's website.

McClendon was unable to make an appearance at the event due to weather and flight delays. A personalized video from McClendon addressed Troy University students on the importance of watching out for one another in and around the water.

The purpose of McClendon's video focused on persevering and achieving dreams, as McClendon did after the disappointment of not making her first attempt at the Olympic trials.

Knyra Ratcliff, a senior marketing major from Birmingham and the international second vice president of Sigma Gamma Rho, said that the event was one that would keep participants engaged throughout its entirety.

"We encourage students to attend the SWIM 1922: Spring Breaks the Cycle of Drowning event because this isn't an ordinary speaking engagement, but it engages students through activities such as trivia, games, social media and incentives while also teaching a great message," Ratcliff said.

The sorority and other campus organizations aimed

to inform students and the community about the risk of drowning.

"Approximately 10 people drown every day in the U.S.," Ratcliff said. "Many collegiate students are at risk of drowning due to factors such as inexperienced swimmers, high alcohol and drug intake, and the lack of lifeguards."

"Learning about water safety and swimming is more than a recreational skill. (It is) a life skill that all students must learn."

Krissy Sherman, a senior criminal justice major from Miami, Florida, and president of G.A.M.M.A. shared some tips for spring break safety.

"One of the best ways for students to be safe is being sure of themselves," Sherman said. "You know what you can and cannot handle. Knowing your limits allows you to assess what you are and what you're not willing to try."

"Don't test your limits," Sherman said. "Have fun and make memories, but be safe while doing so."

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April Irvin photo

Martina McClendon was the keynote speaker for this event but was unable to make it to the event. She made a personalized video for Troy students about staying safe during spring break.

Hawkins

continued from page 1

first phase was very much the formalized park area you see across the street from Trojan Village, and where we're building that new resident hall.

"Phase two gets into the amphitheater area, which is what we have been working on the past couple of years, and we're just finishing up. It's turned out to be absolutely beautiful."

The third phase, according to Salmon, will focus on the forested areas and the lagoon on campus.

These areas were being cleared out during the development of the actual park.

"This has been a process of moving out invasive plants and other types of things that have established themselves in this area," Salmon said. "(We are) trying to go back and restore much of the natural vegetation and those things that are indigenous to the state of Alabama."

This is one part of the recognized restoration project.

"We've been cleaning up and working on stream restoration and pieces where we're trying to minimize the amount of erosion and pollutants that come into the park."

Salmon said this aspect of the restoration project helped the university earn a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This grant allowed the university to minimize erosion from the storm water that comes from campus and

roads and enters the park.

This work was mostly focused along Luther Drive, according to Salmon.

Students from the elementary school to the university level have used this project as a learning tool.

"We set up an area to trap sedimentation and other things and just do more to develop what is more of a marshy area," Salmon said.

He said that in the next few years the members of the project hope to have more stream restoration and build more bridges and walkways near the lagoon.

A boardwalk area similar to those found near "more established centers around lakes and other settings" and walking trails will also be found throughout the park.

The trails will be available to people during the day. They will not be lighted for night use.

"There's just too many risks involved there with trying to light up a forest," Salmon said.

He said that the park is meant to show that it is possible to develop an inner-city forested area that students and the community can enjoy.

Salmon said that the completion of the park would depend on the funding the university receives.

"As those resources come, that will help us establish a more defined schedule of when we can do that," Salmon said. "We would like to think that we could get all this accomplished over the next three, to five, to maybe seven years."

After the Trop: Sarah Hutto

Laura Hutto
Chief Copy Editor

Tropolitan workers come from a variety of majors on campus, and they do not all end up in journalism. Many are journalism majors, but some come from the science department, the English department and even the art department. One Trop alumna in this situation was Sarah Hutto, who received a degree in graphic design at Troy University and created the graphic design editor position on the paper.

After graduating, Hutto found herself working with elves, working on an online wellness platform, working on a startup agency and, currently, working remotely for contracts.

"I feel like I have transitioned from something I was expected to do to something I really love," she said.

Hutto knew graphic design was her passion from her high school years, as it was introduced to her by a Troy alum. Many days were spent on the computer designing pages for other people's social media accounts such as Myspace. For her, it only made sense to carry this into college.

"I was one of the lucky ones. I knew what I wanted to do when I graduated," she said.

"Not everyone has that."

She said the decision to come

to Troy came from a combination of a good scholarship and programs she was interested in. One of these programs was the Sound of the South Dance Line, where she danced for two years and was the captain the second year.

Hutto's first two years were mostly spent focusing on her degree and the dance line, but in her third year she was introduced to the Tropolitan.

"Don't be afraid to work in your own generation.

This is 2015, and if 9-to-5 isn't your thing, don't be afraid to push new boundaries."

She credits this introduction to alumna Savannah Harrison, who was looking for a new Arts and Entertainment editor. Knowing Hutto's background and talents in graphic design, Harrison asked her to do the job.

She was the only person on the staff with extensive design experience; therefore, she began helping with design needs on the paper.

"The weather strip was one of my crowning achievements," she said.

Hutto continued to do the graphic designer job for the paper while also being the editor for Arts and Entertainment. According to her, this was a challenge. She juggled two jobs on the paper with school and an extra job on campus at the Writing Center. Her senior year, a thesis project was added to her workload.

"It was challenging, but very rewarding at the same time because my portfolio grew and grew," she said.

Hutto graduated in May of 2012. She said that after graduation she was afraid of not being able to get a job, or of getting a job in a location that she wasn't happy with. Fortunately, only two months later, she received a job with The Elf on the Shelf in Atlanta as junior graphic designer. She described her first day on the job as being like working in the North Pole.

"The first thing I saw when I walked in the doors was a large Christmas tree," she said.

"I knew in that moment that I was in a good place."

Every day, Hutto worked on graphics for the elves for print. She did this for two years. Next, she expanded her talents by taking a job that was strictly for online content at Sharecare. She said this was a big change because she went from working only on print products for Christmas to specifically online content for health.

"The fastest way to know you don't like something is to be thrown into it," she said of the job at Sharecare. She went on to say that it required too much coding and not enough designing, which was her main focus.

Recently, Hutto took a job with a soon-to-be-launched communications company, and has made another big change: she works from home. Not only that, but she is also a lead in a startup design agency. Here, Hutto is part of a team of freelance workers who handpick projects.

"This is where I am truly thriving... I am getting to work on a different project every day, a new brand every hour," she said.



Erin Murray photo

Sarah Hutto attends a lantern festival in Atlanta. Hutto has been trying to get the full experience of living in the city while there.

"I am getting to say 'no' to projects for the first time, which is a good feeling."

Hutto is another example of a person who took what she learned from the Trop and applied it to her career, even though she wasn't in journalism. Being in an organization on campus greatly affects a

person's future, according to her.

"Don't be afraid to live in your own generation. This is 2015, and if 9-to-5 isn't your thing, don't be afraid to push new boundaries," she said.

"Working in pajamas with my two cats is great."

Tutor of the Year found calling through work

Tori Roper
Staff Writer

Melissa Cannon, a senior elementary education major from Hartford, discovered firsthand that she was on the right path as she began tutoring at the public library.

Each semester, 60 to 100 Troy students volunteer at the Troy Public Library to tutor kindergarten through 12th-grade students enrolled in school in the Pike County area.

Tutors are matched with the students by which subjects they are skilled in and whether the tutor is an elementary or secondary education major or another major.

"Tutoring helps me see how the curriculum is now with the changes because of Common Core," Cannon said. "I have to relearn all of the methods so I can be more prepared for when I will be a teacher. I will be a step up on what they are learning."

One student is chosen out of all of the volunteers as the Tutor of the Year. For the year 2014, Cannon was chosen for the award.

The librarians of the Troy Public Library talk to the parents and teachers of the students who receive tutoring to gain insight on each student's progress and how beneficial the tutor has been for the student while choosing Tutor of the Year.

"She's definitely exceeded our expectations," said Teresa Colvin, the children's librarian at Troy Public



Melissa Cannon

Library.

Several tutors in the running for the award, according to Colvin, but parents of Cannon's students were "vying" for her to win after the difference she had made in their children's academics.

Cannon has been tutoring with the library since her first semester in college.

"I had to have community service hours, so I got plugged in at the library and just stuck with it," Cannon said.

Colvin said that students usually come to tutor as education majors who are required to have 10 volunteer hours in the education field for certain classes.

According to Colvin, Cannon has clocked in over 100 hours at the library so far.

Cannon goes to the library to tutor once a week unless her students have tests, which increases tutoring to twice a week.

Cannon tutors the same two students every week. She has been tutoring one of them, named Anna, for 2.5 years.

"I was having difficulty finding out if teaching is what I wanted to do," Cannon said. "Anna has helped me decide what I wanted to do."

Anna and Lexi, Cannon's other pupil, are both sixth-graders.

"Anna is really funny," Cannon said. "Lexi went through three different tutors, so it took a little adjustment when I started tutoring her as well. They have competitions between the two of them; they enjoy the competition."

"She is so sweet," she said of Anna. "She missed me over winter break and brought me a card that said, 'I'm doing flips that you're my tutor again.'"

"Anna likes it," said Cannon of the tutoring process. "Some are there because they have to be, but every kid is different. Some enjoy it more than others."

"I try to find ways to help them enjoy it more," Cannon said. "I bring in markers and huge sheets of paper and let them draw. Sometimes I put games in it or take them outside. I let them have more of a say so they feel more in control."

One of the children tutored by Cannon was in an intervention program, or remedial classes.

"She did so well under (Cannon's) guidance that she is back with her class," Colvin said.

When asked how important tutoring is to her, Cannon replied: "Extremely important. Tutoring gives college students an opportunity to volunteer and reach out to the community and learn about people around them."

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Campus voter participation and involvement

Voting, not voting can be instrumental in matters close to students' hearts in university life

Editorial Board

Less than a quarter of eligible students voted in last week's Student Government Association executive elections. Of the 6,058 students eligible to vote, only 834 did vote, less than 14 percent.

This means that 5,224 Troy University students chose not to take an active part in electing the students who will be leading next year.

The common excuse is that the SGA doesn't do anything and won't affect anyone.

Failing that, independent students often say that the Greeks control the SGA and there will never be enough independent votes to change that.

The answer to the latter statement is simple. If the Greeks do have disproportionate representation and authority in the SGA, voter apathy among independent students does nothing to repair that.

If students are concerned about being represented in the SGA, they should be voting and encouraging their friends to vote.

If students aren't concerned

about being represented in the SGA, they should be.

The SGA is meant to serve as a voice and an advocate for the student body.

Students regularly complain about parking on campus, the quality of campus facilities, the cost of attendance, dining hall hours and dining options on campus and many other factors of university life.

Students who are concerned about these things should be pushing the SGA to advocate on the student body's behalf.

However, many students will complain and still refuse to vote.

The SGA president is a non-voting member of the board of trustees. The president has the opportunity to speak for the students directly with decision makers who can raise tuition and in-state fees.

Perhaps the most-heard complaints on campus are about parking.

The current parking plan was developed and passed by the SGA last spring.

The SGA also proposed a new \$125 fee to the board of trustees last spring. This fee will go to the development of a new recreation center.

Current SGA President Matthew Thompson, a junior accounting major from Montgomery, said that the SGA is looking into changing the dining hall hours to better accommodate the average

student.

Applications for SGA Senate elections are available online. They are due Friday, March 20, at 4 p.m., and the next elections will be Wednesday, March 25, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is an opportunity for students concerned with being represented by the SGA to stand up and be counted.

Students with strong opinions about parking, dining and other things should consider running for office.

At the very least, all students should take the time to vote.

Current students can vote in Trojan Center Room 215, the SGA office. They must have their student IDs.



Seth Nicholson

Student planning tool

Tyler Wooley
Contributor

The new student planning tool as part of Web Express provides students with many services.

However, students, both freshmen and upperclassmen, still have to spend some time getting used to the functions of Web Express.

Key'ousha Foster is a freshman and recently learned how to use the Trojan Web Express system, one that some consider confusing.

Even though some students find the Web Express system difficult, Foster said that "it was fairly easy."

Foster, an exercise science major from Troy, said the system is fine and is "easy to use" when registering for classes.

Foster agrees that the system is not perfect and said that it needed "more help options."

She said that she still has not found some of the things she looked for.

"I didn't like that I had to refresh the browser to see that the classes are full," Foster said.

Some students who "hate" the Web Express system, however, have more to say.

"I always have to delete the freaking cookies," said Joanna Campbell, a senior chemistry major from Atlanta.

Aside from the "terrible, illogical and confusing" layout, Campbell says "the hours entry for employees is horrible."

Campbell works at the chemistry lab on campus and uses Web Express to input hours worked.

Campbell also said she does not like the look of the web page.

"It's not at all aesthetically pleasing," Campbell said.

There is, however, a new addition to Web Express.

If you open the tab on Web Express that reads "View account and make payments," there is a section called the student planning tool.

The student planning tool is supposed to make it easy to plan semesters in advance, along with many tasks.

Students can view their progress toward their degrees, course catalogs and test summaries.

After viewing their progress, students can register for classes using the tool.

The new function serves as a way to communicate to academic advisers. Students can request reviews and add notes about their class schedules.

Moreover, the tool helps students with financial planning.

On the account activity tab, students can view the breakdown of their charges, payments, financial aid and account balance form.

All past semester account statements are also available on the site.

"It is much better than the old one," Campbell said.

The new tool is meant to

make information easier to read and easier to understand.

For example: it uses color coding to show the student what classes are completed, in progress, not started and an group of courses that is fulfilled.

Campbell liked the new tool so much she said one of the only ways to make it better is to "make the mouse icon a unicorn."

Foster had not heard about the new tool, but she had a positive attitude toward learning about it.

"I believe the tool would be very helpful to the students," Foster said. "The good weigh out the bad when it comes to benefits of the new tool."

The new tool should be simpler and should make my academic profile easier to comprehend.

Being married to an elementary education major means I am no stranger to color coding.

I think the tool will be a great tool for advisers to use in order to help students who are online or on a different campus.

Students and advisers should be able to have an online interface and plan classes for the coming years.

Foster said she hopes that the process of learning a new system will not be hard. "I don't think it's that bad to learn something new."

Tyler Wooley is a junior multimedia journalism major from Gulf Shores.

Say WHAT?

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

What do you think of Trojan Web Express?



"I could use it if only my Internet were fast enough to load the page."
— **The Tropolitian**

"I find the log-in process tedious... Once I am in the program, it's efficient enough. It could use a little more FAQs. I don't want to have to contact the help desk for everything I do."

— **Petra Hokanson**, a senior American and Latin American history major from Ansbach, Germany.



"I like it for the most part. I've never had any issues with it in the past ... I find it fairly easy to use."

— **Kyle Ganus**, a senior political science major from Leesburg, Florida.

"I wish Web Express, Blackboard and our email system were combined. Having the same portal for all three would be easier to manage and maneuver."

— **Quinta Goines**, a junior multimedia journalism major from Needham.



EDITORIAL POLICIES

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

Editorials stand as the official, corporate opinion of the

Tropolitian. Our opinions are not influenced by campus organizations or societies, university administration or political parties. The first copy of the Tropolitian is free to any student or employee of Troy University. Each additional copy costs \$1.

Guest Columns

The Tropolitian 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 Tropolitian.

Letters to the Editor

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

The Tropolitian 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 Tropolitian 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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Helen Keller Lecture Series

Cassie Gibbs
News Editor

On the morning of Aug. 12, 2009, Mackenzie Westmoreland woke up in darkness.

He became blind before the age of 40 because of diabetic retinopathy, an event that started him "on a path of self-discovery" that required personal change.

Westmoreland, an award-winning director and producer and a Troy University alumnus, told his story at the Helen Keller Lecture Series on Tuesday, March 3, of overcoming the everyday struggles that come with being blind, having an amputated leg and living with kidney failure, and the joy he eventually found because of them.

When he woke up blind, Westmoreland said that he was scared, but a saying from his mother helped him stay strong.

"I sat on the edge of my bed, petrified to even move, and every 'What if?' ran through my head," Westmoreland said. "Then somewhere in the back of my head, I heard the whisper. 'God doesn't give us what we can't handle.' It was my mother's voice. It was the first time I was absolutely certain of it."

Westmoreland said that he wanted to stay independent even with blindness.

He said that he learned he needed help in order to be an independent person.

He moved from New York,

where he lived before becoming blind, to Tupelo, Mississippi, and lived at the Reach Center for the Blind for seven months.

"It was the place that nurtured me and allowed me to fail, essentially," Westmoreland said.

He later moved back to New York, where he learned that he had an infection in his foot that would need to be amputated.

The preparatory tests for this surgery would also result in his kidneys shutting down.

"In the course of three days, I was going to lose my leg and my kidneys," Westmoreland said. "It was a bit much."

Westmoreland said that he heard his mother's voice again, telling him that "God doesn't give us what we can't handle."

He received the amputation and began two months of rehabilitation, during one month of which he learned how to use a prosthetic leg.

Westmoreland said that everything that happened to him resulted in his heart changing. He said that he realized that material things are not as important as people are.

"When you're blind and can't see those things, they just don't mean as much anymore," Westmoreland said. "And when you're put in a situation where you are truly dependent on someone just to get food or go to the bathroom, you learn that it's not the things in life that are important, it's the people around you."

In 2012, Westmoreland went into the filmmaking business



Popular Science Monthly Vol. 46 photo

Helen Keller (left) and Anne Sullivan (right) are demonstrating what they would have to do to teach Keller how to communicate. Mackenzie Westmoreland recalls his own story of losing his eyesight, kidneys and leg at the Helen Keller Lecture Series.

with his friend Miles Doleac. In 2014, the pair released "The Historian," which won "Best First Feature Film," "Best Actor," and "Best Supporting Actor" at the 2014 Long Island International Film Expo.

Westmoreland said that the main point of his presentation was that people must be open to change.

"My point of all of this, is that we have to accept and be willing to change, no matter what struggles we're given," Westmoreland said. "Some of us have hearing impairments, some of us have physical and mobility challenges, some of us just have troubles in life."

"If we're not willing to make the changes necessary; if we allow fear to keep us from being what we can be, we stop being. We're just existing. Good things

can be found in bad struggles."

Westmoreland said that his experiences have made him realize that happiness can be found in the hardest and darkest of times.

"I am a diabetic. I am totally blind. I have an amputated leg. I have complete kidney failure, and I am only alive at this moment due to dialysis three times a week," Westmoreland said. "I am also completely grateful for every one of those conditions. They are a constant reminder to me of how much joy can be found in the struggle of living."

Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. said that Westmoreland's story is one that should inspire others to strive to succeed despite obstacles.

"I think it's really important for all of us to remember the

challenges and achievements in low-incident populations that are labeled 'disabled,'" Hawkins said. "I think what we heard today was more about ability than disability. Mack represents an inspiration for all of us."

"He has certainly demonstrated that he can turn challenges into opportunities, and with every opportunity to fail, inherently, there is an opportunity to succeed."

Aubrey Toole, a senior biomedical sciences major from Pace, Florida, said that she was touched by Westmoreland's story.

"The speaker was very inspiring for me and my life, with every struggle that I face," Toole said.

Vienna Boys Choir to stop here on tour

Lacey Alexander
Staff Writer

The Troy Arts Council will welcome a group of international guests next week when it hosts one of the best-known boys' choirs in the world for a one-night performance.

On Tuesday, March 10 in Claudia Crosby Theater at 7 p.m., the Troy Arts

Council will present a concert featuring The Vienna Boys Choir, an Austrian-based choir made entirely of boys aged 10-14 who come from 30 different nations.

Since the 14th century, boys have been singing at the court in Vienna.

The Vienna Boys Choir is a nonprofit organization, and the choir is divided into four touring groups, which perform

approximately 300 shows a year.

Though most members are originally from Austria, the choir includes young men from all over the world.

Each of the four touring groups, all named after different Austrian composers, has a choirmaster and two tutors to accompany the boys.

Haydnchor, the choir that will be performing in Troy, is composed of 24 boys who come from a variety of countries, including Malaysia, Poland and Japan.

The U.S. tour will continue until the end of the year. Haydnchor will also be traveling to Alexander City and Oxford before it leaves Alabama for Tennessee.

Ruth Walker, president of the Troy Arts Council, says that having international guests to perform is beneficial to the community.

"We are a cultural arts organization," Walker said. "It brings culture to our little town of Troy ... The music will be a mix between imperial and contemporary ... We're fortunate to get them."

Walker said that the choir performed in Troy in 2007 after being invited by the council's presenter, John Jinright, and that it was a "huge success."

"People were really taken by them," she said. "They really are wonderful."

Walker also said that the arts community in Troy is starting to build and that opportunities such as this one are happening more frequently.

"As small as Troy is, we have a lot to offer," Walker said. "Between the events at the university and the events we provide ... not many small towns have that to offer."

Sarah Hunt, a sophomore theater major from Huntsville who is currently in the collegiate singers class, said that the boys' choir coming to Troy is a welcome surprise.

"At first, I was surprised that such a famous choir was coming to little Troy," said Hunt. "But I really do think it's a great educational opportunity ... It's not every day that artists from the other side of the world visit our school."

Tickets may be purchased on the Troy Arts Council's website, troyartscouncil.com. Tickets are \$20 for the public and \$5 for students.



Lukas Beck photo

The Vienna Boys Choir will be coming to Troy on Tuesday, March 10, for one of 300 performances it gives during its tour.

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The spring break invasion of Panama City

Grishma Rimal
Variety Editor

Hallelujah! Spring break is at our doorsteps, and for college students, who are pretty worn out by the semester already, this definitely calls for a celebration. Many will spend it by traveling or by getting much-needed sleep and rest. But we all probably know at least someone who is heading down to Panama City Beach, Florida, and, as the popular vernacular goes, “turning up.”

Panama City Beach is often referred to as “the spring break capital of the world.”

MTV, which annually covers different events and parties going on in the area, reports that approximately 500,000 students from all across the country come to Panama City Beach each year during spring break.

This means that in a town of only approximately 12,000 people, there are 42 tourists per local resident.

Due to the popularity of this destination, many of Troy University’s students who hail from that area have a much different

spring break experience than the visitors and partygoers on vacation there.

Elizabeth Brazier, a senior math major, said that being from Panama City, Florida, and Panama City Beach are two different things. As she lives in Panama City, she avoids going to the beach for the most part.

“When I do go over to the beach, the best word I have is ‘uncomfortable,’” she said. “The traffic is a nightmare, and the spring breakers seem oblivious to the fact that not everyone is there to party.”

Brazier said that she wishes she could enjoy the beaches of her town “without having to worry about getting hit on by drunken guys or getting flashed by a girl with a horse mask over her head.”

Jeremie Murray, a junior global business major, said that this season brings a crowd that tends to have a greater ignorance towards the law and that the littering of the beaches with alcohol containers is a major environmental concern.

Nonetheless, the crowd also helps boost the local economy

a great deal. “This surge of tourism and spending in our city affects the locals in a positive way,” he said.

Shelby Roberts, a junior nursing major, said that the many musical artists who come to Panama City “probably wouldn’t have come if it weren’t the spring break capital.”

For Brazier, Luke Bryan’s free concert has been a highlight each year, always lining up with her spring break ever since she moved there.

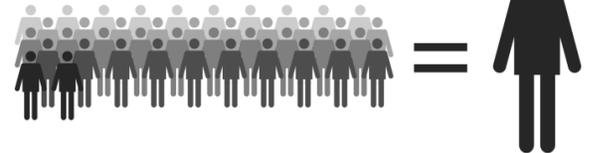
She said that although the variety of events scheduled during the week makes the place livelier with something exciting always going on, many people simply come with the mindset of seeing “How wasted can I get, and how many people can I hook up with?”

Murray also said that problems with underaged drinking, drunk driving and people falling out of balconies of hotels are all too common.

He said that he hopes that stricter implementation of laws regarding the sale of alcohol can help curtail those issues to a certain extent this season.

Approximately 12,000 residents live in Panama City Beach, and about 500,000 tourists spend Spring Break there every year.

There are 42 tourists...



...for every 1 resident.

Taylor Bowser graphic

Source: www.census.gov and MTV

“In a perfect world, we would like for our spring breakers to follow the laws, respect the locals, and enjoy themselves during this week away from school,” he said.

Brazier shared similar ideals, “The most important thing spring breakers can do — beyond the obvious, making smart choices (like) staying hydrated, having a designated driver, etc. — is just to keep in mind that some people have no choice about being in PCB and

respect that,” she said.

Regardless of the upheaval seen in the social scene of their town, those interviewed are still looking forward to going home to spend some time with their family and friends.

“I am excited to be going home, but not for the PCB spring break,” Brazier said. “I plan to spend most of my time away from the madness, relaxing and enjoying being away from school.”

Cream of the crop in Troy’s infrastructure

A Trop ranking of the academic buildings on campus from worst to best

Beth Hyatt
Copy Editor

Upon arriving at Troy University, many are impressed by the atmosphere that it presents: the campus is well-kept, the residence halls are continually being improved, the brand new dining hall still stands proud, and most of the academic buildings have an impressive appearance. However, a few of them are suffering greatly on the inside.

Troy students express concerns about the academic buildings that they believe need some tender, loving reconstruction.

Malone Hall, which houses the theater and art departments, is one of the main buildings in need of repair. The worn walls and signage give the structure a gloomy demeanor.

Holly Ammons, a junior graphic design major from Geneva, said that she thinks the building is somewhat homey and comfortable.

“It gets the job done, but it’s starting to look kind of dumpy and old,” Ammons said. “It’s pushed to the back, so it feels like Troy doesn’t take pride in that department.” She said she believes that the department would be encouraged if the building were shown some attention.

McCartha Hall consists of the office of Veterans Affairs, a fallout shelter and the office for social work and human services majors. The environment of McCartha is, overall, a bit haunting. Most students have never set foot in the place, either because of its reputation or because they are just too scared to go back.

Overall, the building and classrooms are in good condition as far as usability, but students still have concerns.

“I think McCartha is my least favorite building,” said Elizabeth Lincoln, a senior psychology major from Greenville. “I just walked in there and was super uncomfortable, and I’ve only been in there the one time I had to go in.”

MSCX, formerly “McCall Hall,” is home to, as the name suggests, the math and science classes. From laboratories, interview rooms, computer labs, large and small classrooms and even a



Caitlin Collins photo

One of the classrooms in Malone Hall.

convenience store — MSCX has it all, including air conditioning issues.

“The air conditioning and the heating seem to have a mind of its own,” said Jase Williams, a junior political science major from Macon, Georgia. “Whenever it’s hot, it blows hot air; whenever it’s cold, we get more cold air.”

Tepper Middleton, a junior geomatics major from Potter Station, spends a good portion of his time there and thinks that it is the most diverse building in terms of classroom styles.

“It’s utilitarian, and it works,” Middleton said. “It’s not made to look pretty. Some of the classrooms don’t get cleaned out like they should.”

Wallace Hall, is one of the most important buildings on campus. The upper section is the library, and the bottom section is dedicated to the Hall School of Journalism and Communication.

Although the library remains in good shape and the journalism school is up to date on computer and video technology, the building itself leaves a lot to be desired.

Patterson Hall is used for larger-sized classes, film showings, group meetings and conference speakers. The classrooms are still in fine condition and allow students to charge phones and laptops

with easily accessible plugs built into the desks on the first floor.

The large rooms are equipped with projectors and speaker systems to give a large class ease in hearing lectures. Currently on year 10 since its construction, it is faring well.



Caitlin Collins photo

Stairwell in MSCX

Smith Hall contains both the English and the music departments. While many of the ensembles of the John M. Long School of Music have transferred into the newest rehearsal space, many music classes are still hosted in Smith.

The English department has recently

acquired new lecterns and projectors, as well as a new student lounge. While both departments have undergone technology upgrades in the past few months, a few students expressed concerns with the environment.

“As much as I love English and literature, I feel like the English side of Smith Hall is a little bland for my taste,” said Hannah Moore, a senior music education major from Niceville, Florida. “I feel like an English department should have more color, more taste and more space to think.”

Next is Bibb Graves Hall, which has held up well over the years. Reconstruction and renovations have ensured that the central building of the campus has an excellent appearance. It has been called one of the more official-looking buildings due to the fact that it houses most of the business courses.

The main lobby of the building also offers updated statistics, news and stock reports on tickers that surround the main office entrances.

Hawkins Hall hosts the education, psychology and counseling departments and, as of very recently, the international students office. Due to its novelty, it is one of the more popular buildings.

Lincoln spends a great deal of her scholastic time in Hawkins. “I’m obsessed with that building, which is good because it’s my major and I kind of live there,” she said. “I think that building is phenomenal. The windows make it very bright, open and welcoming.”

Long Hall tops the list of academic buildings because it is the newest addition to Troy’s campus. The new building is home to a dance studio and new rehearsal rooms for both band and choir. The building has multiple practice rooms, rehearsal spaces and designated areas for the students to sit, practice and socialize.

Moore enjoys the proximity of Smith and Long Hall, especially on rainy days. “It’s a nice experience to walk through the door and have that environment,” she said. “It’s very organized.”

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Trojans suffer back-to-back Sun Belt losses

Michael Shipma
Staff Writer

The Troy men's basketball team lost its past two contests, with a road loss to Texas State 67-61 and a loss to Georgia State 75-64 in its final home game.

With the loss to Georgia State, the Trojans (10-18, 5-14 Sun Belt) have been eliminated from having a spot in the Sun Belt championship tournament.

Looking to bounce back from a tough loss at home against UALR, Troy traveled to San Marcos, Texas, to play Texas State (13-14, 7-11 Sun Belt) on Thursday, Feb. 26.

The Trojans came out ready to play, keeping pace with the Bobcats throughout most of the first half.

Troy shot 42.3 percent from the floor, but was kept at arm's length by the Bobcats' six-for-eight shooting from three-point range.

After keeping a close lead for most of the half, Texas State went on a 12-2 run late in the half, taking a 35-27 lead into halftime.

The Bobcats came out after halftime ready to run away with the game, but the Trojans' effort kept

them in it.

After leading by 11 points with 15:25 left in the half, it looked as if Texas State would add to that, but 14 points from junior forward John Walton III helped keep the game within reach for Troy.

A three-pointer from senior guard Musa Abdul-Aleem brought the Trojans within three with 35 seconds left, but Texas State made the necessary free throws down the stretch to put the game away.

The Trojans, on the verge of being eliminated from the Sun Belt Tournament after the loss, returned home for senior night.

Troy looked to secure its chance to get into the tournament and honor seniors Abdul-Aleem and forward Kevin Thomas in their final home game at Troy.

Georgia State (20-9, 13-5 Sun Belt) had other plans. The Panthers dominated both ends of the court, and Troy had no answer for the shooting gallery put on by Georgia State.

The Trojans fell behind early in the game and could never recover, shooting just nine out of

24 from the field in the first half.

Senior guard Ryan Harrow led the Panthers' balanced scoring attack with 17 points and four assists, as the visiting team maintained a lead for the entirety of the game.

"Georgia State is the best pick-and-roll team in the league, and they executed well," Abdul-Aleem said. "We just didn't have an answer for it. They're a smart team."

Abdul-Aleem led all scorers with 19 points, as the Trojans made a late effort to try and close the gap. It was too little, too late, however, as the Trojans fell and were thus eliminated from the Sun Belt Tournament.

"We just ran into a better team tonight," said head coach Phil Cunningham. "That hasn't happened a whole lot this season, we've always been close. But the first half in particular, they were better. No one's done to us what they did to us in that first half, and that's where the game was won."

Troy will travel to play its last regular season game against rival South Alabama on Saturday, March 7. Tipoff is set for 4:05 p.m.



Troy Athletics photo

Junior Trang Huynh won her singles and doubles match against ULL.

Tennis teams gain wins

Ty Ammons
Staff Writer

The Troy men's and women's tennis teams both came away with wins on Thursday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb. 28, respectively.

The men's team played against conference opponent No. 47 South Alabama, and Troy escaped with a 4-3 win.

The Trojans won three out of their six singles matches. Freshman Andy Lau won his line three singles match against senior Manuel Belda 6-4, 6-1.

Sophomore Pablo Moreno won his match 7-6, 6-2 to win line four against sophomore Tuki Jacobs, and junior Giovanni Samaha won his line six singles match against freshman Olivier Gingras 6-3, 6-2.

Troy won line two and three in doubles, but lost line one.

Sophomore Hassan Ndayishimye and junior Gabriel Dias won their match against junior Juan Trogila and Belda 6-0.

Samaha and freshman Austin Racine won 7-6 against junior Tim Srkala and Gingras.

The women's team had a more convincing 6-1 win in its conference matchup against Louisiana-Lafayette.

Troy won five of its six singles matches. Junior Trang Huynh won her match against freshman Kelly Drew 6-1, 6-0, and freshman Sanae Ohta won her match 6-3, 6-2 against senior Nelo Phiri.

Junior Anja Cosovic won her match against freshman Elena Sava 6-0, 6-2, and freshman Jiayuan Xue won her match 6-4, 6-3 against sophomore Alexandra Way.

Junior Brooke Durden won her match against junior Melissa Burckhardt 6-3, 5-7, 1-0.

Troy won all three doubles matches. Cosovic and Huynh won against Drew and Phiri, 8-1, and Xue and freshman Linnea Skymberg won 8-3 against Sava and Burckhardt.

Ohta and Durden's line three doubles match against Way and freshman Abby Johnson was unfinished.

The men's next match is against Emory in Atlanta on Friday, March 6, and the women's next match is at home against UTSA on Saturday, March 7.

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NOLA-bound: Seven wins strong

Women's basketball team clinches No. 3 seed for Sun Belt Conference Tournament

Wally Pendergrass
Staff Writer

The Trojans' women's basketball team extended its win streak to seven this week, while senior forward Ronita Garrett picked up another Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week award.

Garrett, who also was named CollegeSportsMadness.com's Sun Belt Player of the Week, had two more double-doubles last week in Troy's two wins.

She now has 20 double-doubles, which is the most in the Sun Belt. She also leads the Sun Belt in rebounding, averaging 11.1 rebounds per game.

The Trojans started the week on Thursday, Feb. 26, in San Marcos, Texas, looking to avenge an early season loss to Texas State.

Troy was ahead 36-33 at halftime, and then head coach Chanda Rigby made a defensive adjustment and the Bobcats couldn't find an answer.

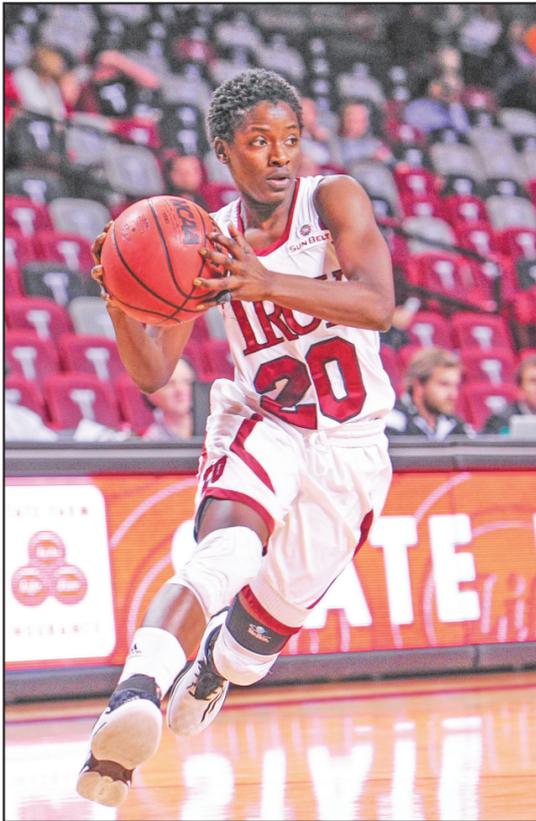
"Texas State shot great in the first half," Rigby said. "In the second half, we changed defenses and only intended to stay in that defense for two to three minutes, but it was working so well and we stuck with it."

The adjustment led to a 19-0 run for the Trojans to start the second half, and Troy never looked back, taking the win 75-59.

Garrett had a double-double with 24 points and 12 rebounds, and sophomore forward Caitlyn Ramirez had 16 rebounds and finished two points shy of a double-double.

Texas State was the last remaining Sun Belt opponent that Rigby had yet to beat during her tenure as head coach at Troy.

Troy honored its four senior players on Saturday, Feb.



Senior guard Aissta Maiga scored 10 points on senior night, Saturday, Feb. 28.

28, in Trojan Arena, and in return, the seniors gave Troy its seventh straight win, an 88-75 victory over Georgia State.

The three seniors who played scored a combined 35 of the Trojans' 88 points on Saturday.

Garrett had another double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while senior guard Aissata Maiga had 10 points and senior guard Kourtney Coleman had eight.

The fourth senior, forward Brianna Lancaster, missed her 11th game due to an injury.

"Tonight we wanted to send the seniors out with a win," Rigby said. "We also wanted to play a lot of people and begin to prepare to be our best down the stretch. These goals were met, so it was a successful night."

The Trojans have one more game before the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. They close the regular season on the road against rival South Alabama on Saturday, March 7.

The Trojans have locked up the No. 3 seed in the tournament, but could advance to the No. 2 seed.

The Trojans would need a miracle win from rival South Alabama against Arkansas State on Thursday, March 5, to have a chance.

If the Jaguars do upset the Red Wolves, then Troy could get the No. 2 seed with a win over South Alabama and another Red Wolves loss, this time to UL Lafayette on Saturday.

The Sun Belt Conference Tournament starts Wednesday, March 11, in New Orleans. Troy will play at either 5 p.m. or 7:30 p.m., depending on its seed.

Golden Eagles almost sweep Troy

Wes Fortson
Staff Writer

The Troy baseball team welcomed the Southern Miss Golden Eagles to Riddle-Pace Field on Friday, Feb. 27, but lost the series 2-1.

The series has been an ongoing meeting between the two schools and has proven to be an entertaining matchup.

On Friday night, the Trojans struck early in the first when junior right fielder Logan Hill hit a two-run bomb to center field to put Troy on the board 2-0.

By the end of the fourth inning, Troy tacked on two more runs with some help from the redshirt junior catcher Tripp Calhoun.

Calhoun grounded out to third base in the second inning to score senior first baseman Trevin Hall and also walked in the fourth inning to force Hall home.

Troy's aggressive offense helped cushion the two solo homers allowed by freshman pitcher Corey Childress.

Childress still had a productive night even after allowing the two runs. He gave up only six hits and had four strikeouts against

a talented Southern Miss offense.

The final score of Friday night's game was 6-2 as Childress added another win to his career at Troy.

"I really liked the way Corey pitched," said head coach Bobby Pierce. "He didn't really have good stuff tonight, but that challenged a young guy to see a little trouble early in a game and make some quality pitches."

On Saturday, Feb. 28, the Trojans had their Hits for Heroes game and played in camo uniforms for the first time.

Troy reversed its luck with a tough-fought 6-2 loss to the Golden Eagles on Saturday.

Both sides were held not only scoreless but also hitless for the first six innings of the game as the pitchers battled it out on the mound.

Troy's junior pitcher Grant Bennett looked stellar in his third start of the season, as he struck out seven batters and allowed only two hits.

Southern Miss struck first in the top of the seventh when junior first baseman Tim Lynch hit a two-run home run to deep right center field.



(Above) Senior first baseman Trevin Hall went 3-3 at base and had one RBI on Friday, Feb. 27.

However, the Trojans came back and tied the game in the bottom of the ninth as senior pinch hitter David Hall doubled to right field to score Hill and junior left fielder Windham Jackson.

In the top of the 10th, Troy was looking to steal a victory but couldn't seem to keep Southern Miss off the bases, after a catcher's interference call and an intentional walk

put runners on the corners.

The Golden Eagles' freshman designated hitter Daniel Keating tripled to right field to score three more runs and put the nail in the coffin.

Sunday afternoon, March 1, the Trojans once again looked to be resilient.

Unfortunately, sophomore pitcher Tucker Simpson and the Troy offense weren't enough

to win the series in a 5-0

loss. The Trojans managed to accumulate six hits, but none were in the right situations to score any runs, leaving six runners on base.

Southern Miss seemed to be firing on all cylinders on Sunday.

The Eagles' five runs came from a couple of doubles and a two-run home run by senior center

fielder Connor Barron.

"Our series with Southern Miss is always a challenge, and they're always a very good team," said assistant coach Mark Smartt. "They always bring a great series."

Troy played Alabama State on Tuesday, March 3, and lost 12-8.

The Trojans will be back on the diamond against UL Lafayette this Friday, March 6, in Louisiana.

Women's golf finishes seventh out of 40

Jill Odom
Sports Editor

The Troy women's golf team finished in seventh place out of 40 competing schools at the Kiawah Island Classic on Tuesday, March 3.

The Kiawah Island Classic took place at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, from Sunday, March 1, to Tuesday, March 3. The tournament was split up over two courses, and Troy took on the more difficult Osprey Point Course.

On Sunday, the Trojans finished in second place, shooting a 298, only one shot behind North Florida. Senior Langley Vannoy tied for eighth place with a 72 and had a tournament high of six birdies.

Teammates sophomore Fatima Fernandez Cano and senior Sydney Conrad tied for 16th with 74s in the first round.

On Monday, March 2, Troy preserved its second-place position and shot a 300 for the day at Oak Point Course.

College of Charleston took the lead from North Florida, which dropped back to third place after round two.

Cano took over as the leader of the Trojans, tying for fifth place on day two. She shot one under par with a 71, and it is her second under par of the season.

Senior Taylor McGraw wrapped up her second round two-over and advanced from tied for 51st to tied for 26th.

Vannoy also tied for 27th with McGraw, finishing with an 80. She had three birdies on Monday.

In the final round of the tournament, only the top 20 teams moved on to play at Osprey Point for the team title.

Troy shot a 313 and dropped to seventh place while College of Charleston finished with the win.

Cano fell back to being tied for 14th place, finishing three-over par. McGraw and Conrad both shot an 81 for the last round and tied for 60th and 69th, respectively.

The women's golf team will return to the green for the 3M Jaguar Intercollegiate in Augusta, Georgia, on March 13-15.



Sophomore Fatima Fernandez Cano finished the Kiawah Island Classic tied for 14th place on Tuesday, March 3.

Successful softball series

Ty Ammons
Staff Writer

The Trojans traveled to Deland, Florida, over the weekend for the Stetson Invitational, and won three out of four softball games.

On Friday, Feb. 27, Troy played Alabama State again, after giving the Hornets a sound thrashing in a double-header on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Troy won the game 11-3. The starting pitchers were junior Sara Mock for Troy and junior Melissa Christmann for the Hornets.

Troy scored a run in the second inning off freshman center fielder Carli Kayler, who singled to score junior right fielder Amanda Winters.

In the third inning, Troy scored four runs that started when Kayler was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, allowing junior shortstop Kate Benton to score.

The Hornets scored one run in the third on a single from junior first baseman Carly Evans to score sophomore center fielder Valerie Centeno.

Senior first baseman Michelle Phelps retaliated in the fourth with a home run that scored Benton as well. Alabama State answered with sophomore right fielder Brittney Wilson hitting a solo home run in the bottom of the fourth.

Junior designated player Hannah Day singled in the fifth to score another run, and then the Hornets were able to score a player from a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the fifth.

After the walk, Troy managed to hold Alabama State at bay, and scored three more runs in the sixth. Junior third baseman Khadija Neely went 3-4 with four RBIs.

Troy won 9-1, and almost shut out Colgate in the second game on Friday. The starting pitchers were junior Ashley Rainey for Troy and junior Brigit Ieuter for Colgate.

Colgate had only one run, and it was scored in the first inning on a fly out to center field. Troy came back in the bottom of the first inning when Benton scored on a wild pitch, and then Winters flied out to score Day.

In the third, the Trojans had some déjà

vu when Benton scored again on a wild pitch, and Winters flew out to score Day again. Also in the third, Neely doubled to score sophomore second baseman Becca Hartley.

In the fifth, Hartley hit a three-run homer and Neely hit a solo homer. Neely went 3-3 with two RBIs.

Troy played Colgate again Saturday, Feb. 28, and this game proved to be tougher for the Trojans, with Troy winning 4-3. The starting pitchers were Mock for Troy and freshman Kira Griswold for Colgate.

Colgate stuck first with three runs in the fourth inning. Junior designated player Alessandra Moore singled to score junior catcher Mariel Schlaefer. Sophomore right fielder Tara Grennan homered to score Moore as well.

Troy scored in the fourth thanks to Benton's single, which scored redshirt freshman pinch runner Allison Moore.

Troy scored three more in the seventh when Benton reached on a throwing error that helped senior left fielder Chelsea Eytel and Neely score. Winters singled to score Benton.

The second Saturday game, which was supposed to be against Stetson, was canceled due to weather.

On Sunday, March 1, Troy played Stetson in the championship game and lost 9-3. The starting pitchers were senior Jaycee Affeldt for Troy and senior Courtney Brandt.

Troy scored the first two runs, thanks to Winters' homer in the second inning and an Affeldt homer in the fourth.

Stetson countered with eight runs in the fifth. It started with junior catcher Jessica Griffin's single that scored two runs, and then the Hatters scored six more runs off four doubles.

Troy tried to come back, but could muster only one more run when Hartley homered in the sixth inning. Stetson added one more run in the sixth when Griffin homered. Griffin went 2-4 with three RBIs.

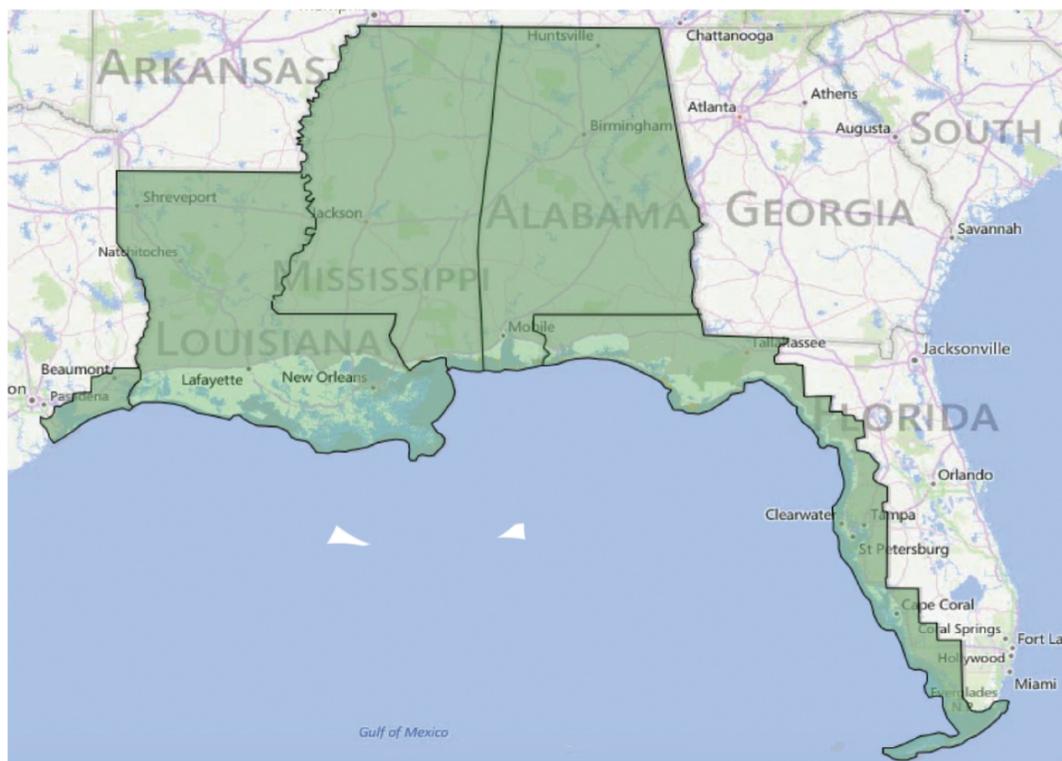
The Trojans played Georgia Tech and won 4-3 on Tuesday, March 3. Troy's next game is on March 7, against Georgia State in Atlanta.



Joshua Thurston photo

Sophomore second baseman Becca Hartley had three RBIs and one home run during the first game against Colgate on Friday, Feb. 27.

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



June 8, 2015 – Deadline to File

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

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

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

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

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

The June 8, 2015 Deadline will NOT be extended

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

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