

More options for students while Wal-Mart is repaired
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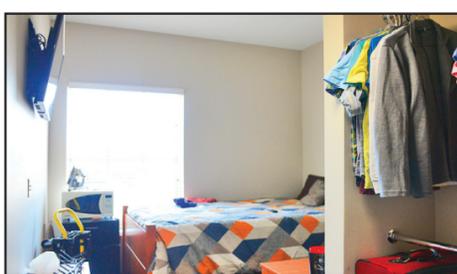
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TROPOLITAN

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April Irvin photos and Alyse Nelson photo (top right)

(Left photo, from left:) Junior exercise science major Derek Cunningham from Birmingham, junior nursing major Ryan Logan from Birmingham, senior education major Timothy Martin from Tuscaloosa, junior global business major Tori Smith from Birmingham and junior computer science major Jared Henderson from Pensacola, Florida, in Henderson's room in the New Hall. Each room comes with its own 42-inch television set. (Second photo on the right:) Construction work is still underway on the fourth floor of the building.

Luxury dorm opens doors

Grishma Rimal
News Editor
Lilly Casolaro
Staff Writer

Troy University is home to "the new Ritz-Carlton of residential life in southeast Alabama."

This is how one resident of the freshly constructed New Hall described the building, according to Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr.

With full-size beds and 42-inch televisions equipped with special satellite cable mounted in every room, the building can be considered substantially luxurious compared to the older residential halls on campus.

However, the provision of mostly private rooms at a relatively high cost also brings its own set of drawbacks.

New Hall consists of 316 private rooms, 30 double rooms, and 12 handicap-accessible rooms. The cost is \$3,000 per semester for a standard single room and \$2,600 for a double room.

There are also premium single rooms available for \$3,250, which are rooms 2 to 3 feet longer than the regular rooms.

The male and the female wings are separated but with a joint common area available on the fourth floor. Each wing has its own tornado shelters.

According to Sara Jo Burks, assistant director of housing and residence life, the demand for rooms in the building has been high despite the price. According to Burks, "every room is full."

See **New Hall**, page 2

Items stolen from 3 vehicles on campus

Larry Willis
Photographer

Three students had their cars broken into last week on the night of Aug. 5, and campus police are still in search for a suspect.

Jasmine Philyaw, a senior communication studies major from Evergreen, received a phone call from a campus policeman, informing her that her vehicle had been burglarized.

"I went outside, where I saw a police officer standing beside my car," Philyaw said.

"My window was busted, and a few of my items were missing, such as my green apple Germ-X, a lot of napkins, an auxiliary cord and a charger."

"The most damage was done to my window," she said. "The items were not expensive at all, but I still feel violated and do not feel safe parking in front of Shackelford or any other parking lot, and I think Troy needs to do better with their surveillance."

"My immediate thoughts after the incident were how silly it was to break into my car and take such small items," she said.

"Nothing in that car was probably worth more than \$40, and they still broke into my car."

"If I had known that they wanted napkins and Germ-X, I would have supplied them with some, and I would have gladly gone to Wal-Mart to buy them the 88-cent bottle of Germ-X that they stole," Philyaw said.

Robert Kichler, a sophomore information systems major from Semmes, was also robbed the same day; his car window also broken.

"Several items from my vehicle were stolen from me, like my watch, my (auxiliary) cord and my iPod," Kichler said. "My window was busted into, and will cost \$175 to replace."

"I just wished it hadn't happened," he said. "When it first happened, I was in shock, and I knew I needed to contact campus

police immediately."

Philyaw is a resident of Shackelford Hall, while Kichler lives in Trojan Village.

Another student, living at Cowart Hall, also had her vehicle broken into the same night.

James Taylor, campus detective at Troy University, said that as of now, no one has been suspected of the acts.

"We haven't identified anyone that's on camera other than the actual residents of the room, so right now, we're trying to identify on the cameras who's who," he said.

Taylor said the university searches for any trace of stolen items in local businesses, such as pawn shops.

"We are a part of what we call Leads Online, which is an agency that monitors pawn shops," he said.

"We put all of our stolen items on that particular website, so that anytime new items are pawned, it's a red flag."

According to Taylor, the system will notify campus police which items were pawned and who pawned them.

"Right now, that is basically where we are for the stolen items," he said.

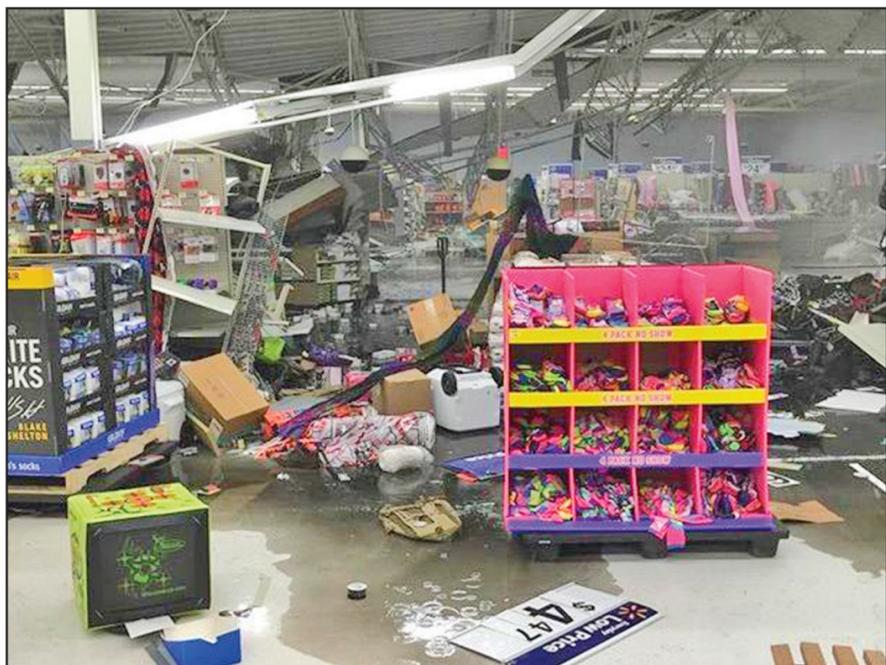
Taylor said he believes that the campus will not experience many break-ins this year.

"I feel that this year will probably be one of our breakthrough years with either solving a lot of cases, or people just not doing it because of the technology and cameras being in place everywhere on campus," Taylor said.

Regardless of his reassurances, those suffering because of these crimes feel the need for added security.

Philyaw encouraged all Troy University faculty and staff members to work on improving the university's surveillance.

"I feel like I should feel safe while living on a college campus, and I shouldn't have to keep checking on my car continuously," she said.



Khadijah Torbert photo

The inside of Wal-Mart immediately after it was hit by the tornado. Many students shopping there were caught in the middle of the chaos.

Tornado strikes Wal-Mart; students bear the burden

Scott McLendon
Staff Writer

Weeks of reconstruction loom in the wake of an EF-1 tornado that struck the Troy Wal-Mart and caused its roof to collapse.

The damage caused by the late-night tornado on Thursday, Aug. 6, extended through the parking lot, flipping over 18-wheelers and ripping open the Hibbett Sports store.

Six people were also injured, according to the mayor's office.

Grant Nall, a senior exercise science major from Auburn, was in Wal-Mart shopping with his friends when the incident occurred.

"We started to begin to hear rattling everywhere," he said. "There is just the sound of metal shaking, and the emergency doors were about to bust open and then things just started to fall down. I just ran and took cover and dove somewhere over by other people."

"I was just dazed," said Mouna Keasara, a sophomore computer science major from Hyderabad, India, who was accompanying Nall. "I wanted to run, but things kept flying towards me in a high speed and I was like, if I run, they are just going to pierce into me. So I'm just gonna lie down on the ground."

According to Nall, everything went pitch black at Wal-Mart and "the alarm started going off after everything happened."

"We send out an alert to students via text when a warning is issued," said Herbert Reeves, dean of student services. "No official tornado warning was given until after one had already hit the Wal-Mart."

Having fewer stores to take advantage of the tax-free weekend was not the only shopping inconvenience locals experienced.

"Move-in week was definitely an adventure for new freshman who forgot the essentials like toilet paper and bed sheets," said Madison McPhillips, a junior nursing major from Florence and a resident assistant in Cowart Hall. "The dollar stores in Troy can only help you so much."

Reeves said that university buses will be taking students by local stores such as Fred's and Dollar General.

"We'll be busing students to these Troy stores to keep some money in the local economy," he said. "The buses will resume taking students to Wal-Mart when it reopens."

See **Wal-Mart**, page 2

Quality work recognized and emphasized

Priyanka Sharma
Staff Writer

The voice of Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. boomed from behind the podium as he spoke at the annual faculty convocation held on Friday in Claudia Crosby Theater.

He underlined the importance of quality, in terms of academics and day-to-day work.

"We face challenges, many challenges, like we have faced before, but we will do our work with great sensitivity towards the faculty and students," Hawkins said. "I think what we have to do is hold to the basic principles. Nothing will sustain us like quality."

Forty-eight new faculty members were welcomed at the event alongside current faculty.

During the program, the Wallace D. Malone Jr. Distinguished Faculty Award was given to Amy Spurlock, professor of the graduate nursing program in the college of health and human services.

Hawkins and last year's winner, Diane Orlofsky, presented the award to Spurlock, who has been at Troy since 2003. The award included a cash prize of \$1,000 and two special mementos, one shaped like a globe, symbolizing it as a global university award.

"I feel very happy and humble," Spurlock said. "I look back at my time at Troy with a lot of gratitude. I have worked

with some wonderful people and students, and I have learned a lot in my role. It's been very enjoyable. I'm so glad we are all part of a great university."

At the program Hawkins recalled all the achievements made in the past year by the university. He talked about the new partnership college in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, that provides courses in business, psychology, law and communication.

"This will create more international opportunities," he said.

Hawkins also mentioned that Princeton Review named Troy University as one of the best universities in the Southeast.

Additionally, he said that he was happy to announce that a \$1 million grant will be provided to continue support of the student services program.

A raise of 1 percent in salary for faculty and staff who earn more than \$30,000 and 2 percent for those who earn below \$30,000 was announced as well.

Hawkins mentioned that 38 percent of the grades issued at Troy were A's whereas the national average of A's was 43 percent for the 2014-2015 academic year.

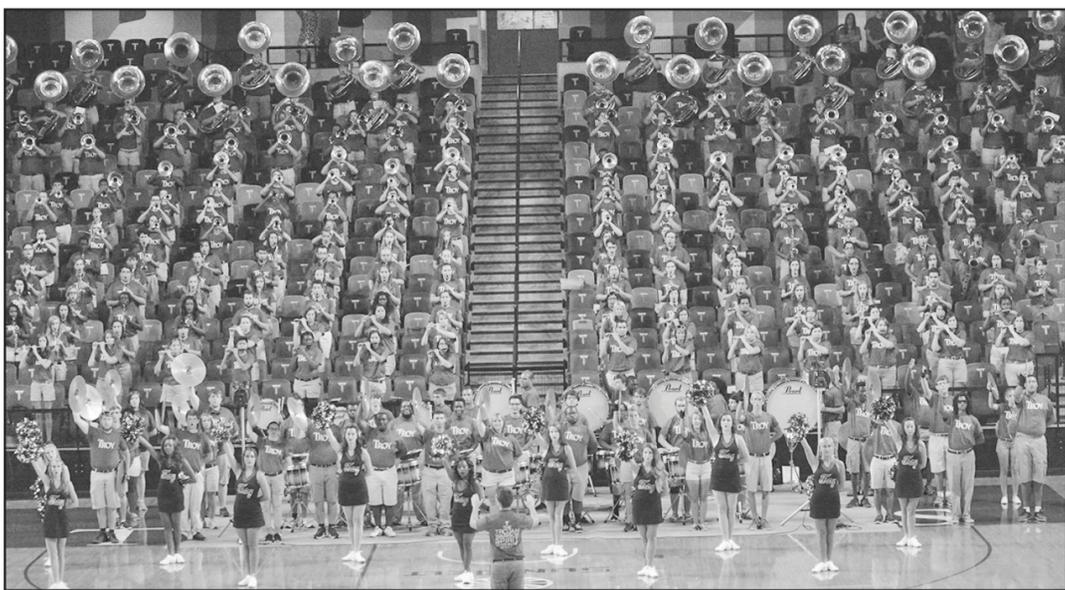
"I know we should not be a part of that academy that just gives grades," Hawkins said. "We want to produce academic leaders. We should make sure that grades are not just given away."

He encouraged both students and faculty to keep working hard for the upcoming year and to continue upholding the highest standards in all their undertakings.



Hannah McGaha photo

From left to right: Earl Ingram, senior vice chancellor of academic affairs, with Wallace D. Malone Distinguished Faculty Award winner Amy Spurlock, Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. and Diane Orlofsky.



April Irvin photo

The Sound of the South playing at the 2015 Odyssey Convocation.

Lose yourself, freshmen

Grishma Rimal
News Editor

It's OK to be yourself, and it's OK to be in the wrong classroom on the first day of classes.

These words of encouragement regarding the embrace of individuality and the exploration of the world were imparted to this year's freshmen Sunday at the 2015 Odyssey Convocation in the Trojan Arena.

Patrick Claybon, "NFL News" anchor and Troy alumnus, delivered the convocation address, recalling his own time in Troy and encouraging students to prepare them-

selves for adventure and growth.

"You are the explorer on this Odyssey; you can find anything," he said. Claybon reminisced about his college days, when he said that he, too, got lost, mentally and sometimes physically.

He reminded students that it might take time to find their niches on campus, but as long as they are exploring their options and being themselves, they are doing just fine.

"You don't have to be fixed in some box that people want you to fit in," he said. "You can be you, and as long as you get that across to the people

around you, they can understand you."

He described Troy as a place where people can be true to themselves, and according to him, maintaining that genuineness is essential, regardless of any judgment that people may pass.

"To affect the people around you, be the most positive and passionate version of you," he said.

Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. also spoke about the importance of being oneself and dedicating 110 percent to one's endeavors, inside and outside the classroom.

He urged students to adopt the Trojan Way by

upholding its five tenets: respect, appropriate speech, the balance of responsibility and kindness in one's duties, adherence to established rules and dressing appropriately.

"There are no pants on the ground at Troy University," Hawkins said.

He also invited the families of new Trojans to stay involved in campus affairs and to support the university's various academic and extracurricular initiatives while also giving students some space so they may develop a sense of self-sufficiency.

"At the end of this experience, we want our students to be very independent," Hawkins said.



April Irvin photos

Top photo: Patrick Claybon, Troy alumnus and NFL anchor, giving the freshman convocation speech at Odyssey 2015. Bottom photo: Members of the convocation dais raise their Trojan swords while singing the alma mater.

Wal-Mart

continued from Page 1

"Before any reopening can be scheduled, we have to assess the damage, take inventory and a whole list of other steps," said Brian Nick, director of the national media relations for Wal-Mart. "We'll have to assess water and structural damage."

"A reopening time-frame can't be established until then. Employees of the Troy location will be offered working hours at surrounding locations such as Ozark, Enterprise and South Montgomery."

Nick said they will have these opportunities until Troy's location can be reopened.

New Hall

continued from page 1

"We did have a few families that, after they looked into their finances, they did ask to be moved to a less expensive room," she said, "which is good because they looked at their finances before school started."

Nathan McCroskey, a sophomore athletic training major from Montgomery and resident assistant in New Hall, said that positive notes include more privacy and up-to-date technology, which allows residents to learn in the today's tech-centered world.

"Other residence halls could be considered obsolete by some of today's standards," McCroskey said. "Drawbacks are that while single rooms allow privacy, they also open up windows for problems that usually seem to get pushed

under the rug, such as severe depression that can lead to suicide."

Although there were plans to build a 3-D theater in the tornado shelters, the idea has been scratched.

"They decided to not get the technology because I think that they believe that it will be out of date in less than a year and also that it's expensive," said Jeremie Murray, a senior global business major from Panama City, Florida, and a resident assistant in the New Hall.

Murray said he had a conversation with IT workers about this topic.

"One gentleman said that if it works with the budget, that a nice 90-inch 4K resolution TV monitor would be ideal for tornado shelter," he said.

Residents have already moved into the building, though construction work on the fourth floor remains incomplete. According to

Burks, a study room area is being incorporated into the common room space as an afterthought, causing the delay in completion. The rear of the building, facing the amphitheater, is also unfinished.

"Some students have been unsettled about the mishaps of the building, but all in all everyone is generally in awe of the building," McCroskey said. "Some have been concerned about room size and the affordability of the rooms."

Ashton Prouty, a sophomore political science major from Spanish Fort who lives in the new residence hall that living in the new residence hall over the past week has been "worth the move-in delays, expensive cost, and technical glitches."

"I think it's a fair trade-off for a brand new dorm with full-size beds, bigger desks and state of the art technology," she said.

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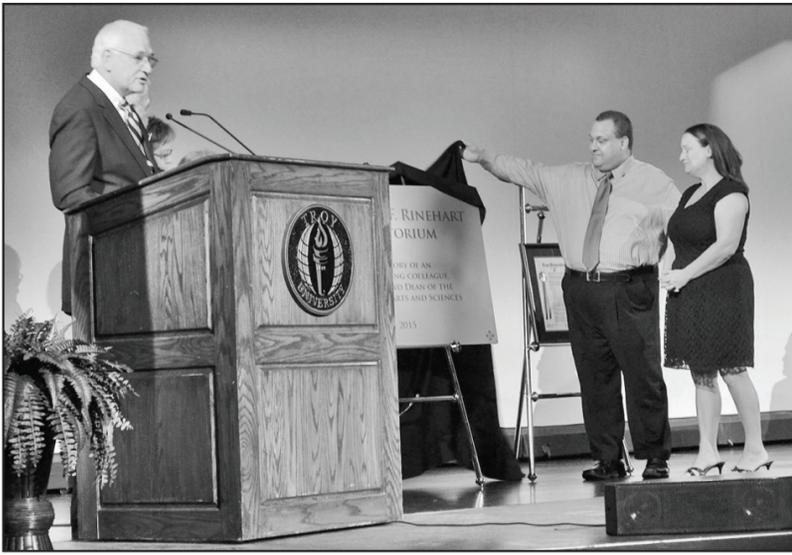
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In memory of fallen Trojans



Hannah McGaha photo

Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. with Andrew and Erica Rinehart, James Rinehart's children, presenting the newly named James F. Rinehart auditorium.

Rinehart remembered as a great leader and friend

Grishma Rimal
News Editor

Family, friends and colleagues came together to celebrate the life of James Rinehart at a memorial service held last Thursday.

Rinehart, who served as the dean of the college of arts and sciences and professor of international relations, passed away at the age of 64 on May 10 following an accident at his residence.

"We are here to pay tribute to a great man and a great leader," Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. said.

Hawkins said that Rinehart always wanted to be in the service of higher education even though that is not where he began.

"He really did demonstrate to all of us, his family and friends, to pursue your dreams," Hawkins said.

Rinehart was an ROTC graduate and served eight years in the U.S. Army Reserve, rising to the rank of captain. He also held the position of the chair of the political science department from 2001 to 2008, took over

as associate dean of arts and sciences from 2008 to 2012, and continued on as dean from 2012.

"He could see the big picture," said Earl Ingram, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. "He had a big scope of thinking."

Ingram acknowledged Rinehart's contribution in helping set groundwork for the school of science and technology.

Ingram also announced that a scholarship in Rinehart's name will be established and awarded to a student in the international relations graduate program.

Additionally, Hawkins presented to Rinehart's family a resolution adopted by the Troy University board of trustees recognizing his contributions to the university and distinguishing him as an outstanding Trojan.

He also announced that the MSCX auditorium will be officially named the James F. Rinehart Auditorium.

Meredith Layton, administrative secretary of the college of arts and sciences, worked closely with Rinehart for seven

years and spoke of the excitement with which Rinehart took upon his responsibilities.

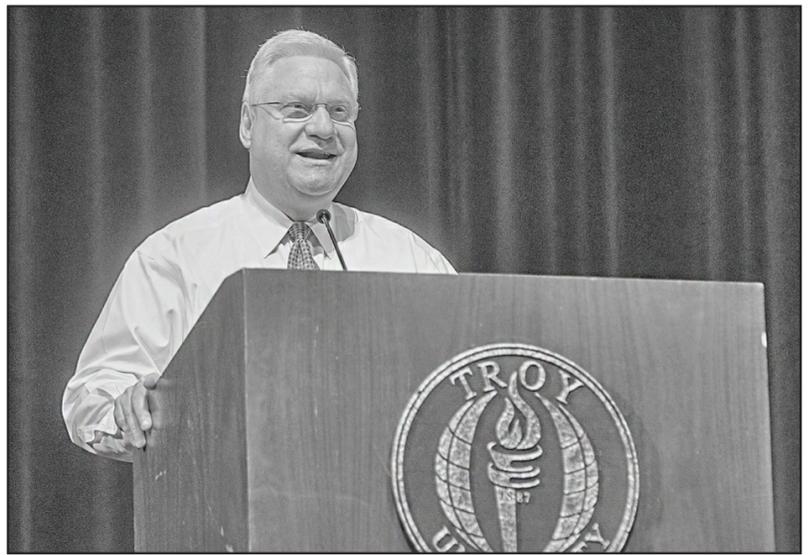
"He was very motivated," she said. "He was enthusiastic about new things, new developments in the college. He served the college with passion."

Layton said that she would often have long conversations with Rinehart that would begin by talking about business and work but would end on a personal level with talk about her children and his grandchildren.

"He was my boss, but for the most part he was my friend," she said.

Steven Taylor, chair of the department of political science, spoke of the impact Rinehart left as a colleague, scholar, friend and mentor.

"He cared about the faculty," Taylor said. "He cared about the program. If a measure of a man is to be found in how he leaves the world behind, we have a very large measurement in James Rinehart. There is just no doubt about that."



Contributed photos

James Rinehart (top photo); James Alan Jones (bottom photo) with a cross that he built for the Wesley Foundation.

Student's generosity and kindness become his legacy

Destiny Hosmer
Staff Writer

James Alan Jones, a 28-year-old computer science major from Huntsville, was found deceased in his apartment in Troy on June 19. His cause of death has not been released by the police.

Jones was active in the Wesley Foundation campus ministry, and his humble generosity put a smile on the faces of those who knew him.

"If anyone needed a seat, he was the one to give his up," said Elaine Brown, campus minister at the Wesley Foundation.

"He typically hung around in the back and waited until everyone was seated before he would take a seat to make sure everyone had somewhere to sit," she said. "He was the guy who would stay late to clean up without being asked."

Jones earned his associate degree at Enterprise State Community College, and being accepted to Troy afterwards was one of his proudest moments, according to Brown.

"Alan loved Troy University," Brown recalled. "When he got accepted here, he called his dad and had his dad drive down from Huntsville and take a picture of him in front of the fountain because he was so excited that he got accepted

to Troy."

Jones fondly called Troy his "school of second chances."

"Alan was always striving to be a better person than the day he was before," Brown said. "Sometimes he succeeded and sometimes he failed. But even in his failure he taught us things and he learned things himself."

Brown described Jones as "good people." He loved the outdoors, hunting, hiking, and building and was active in the Troy computer science club as well as "Celebrate Recovery," a Christian-based addiction rehabilitation program.

"He would sit by anyone who was sitting alone," said Emily Crisp, a junior nursing major from Millbrook. "He was so sweet and just had such an awesome presence. He was a big teddy bear and he was always happy."

"He loved his school, he loved his God and he loved his family," Brown said. "The Wesley (Foundation) will be a little bit dimmer without Alan."

Jones is survived by his parents, Jim and Kathy Jones; brother, Michael Jones; two sisters, Jennifer Pittman (Chris) and Leslie Jones (Blake); grandmothers, Betty Jones and Juanita Biggar; nephew, Logan Pittman; niece, Morrigan Pittman; and girlfriend, Samantha Vance.

Troy SGA attends leadership conference

Lilly Casolaro
Staff Writer

Troy University's Student Government Association is aiming to be among the STARS, or Student Teams Advocating Realistic Solutions.

Several students from the SGA attended the STARS Leadership and University Advocates Conference hosted by the activist group Higher Education Partnership in Destin, Florida, on Aug 2-4.

According to its website, "The Higher Education Partnership is an advocacy organization representing students, faculty, staff, alumni and other supporters of Alabama's four-year public institutions ... the Partnership's goal is to provide a common voice and organized effort to take a stand for Alabama's public universities."

Its subsidiary STARS was formed with the purpose of teaching students the issues facing higher education, coaching them in advocacy, and providing leadership training. Higher education consists of undergraduate through doctoral programs.

Each Student Government Association has a STARS committee composed of members who are committed to advocating for higher education.

Troy alumnus Will Thompson, the 2012-13 Troy SGA president and 2012-13 chairman of the University Student Government President's Council, said that the STARS Program provided advocacy skills and prepared him for future endeavors.

"Many of the advocacy skills I obtained by virtue of my involvement with the STARS program are still of major importance in my current line of work," Thompson said. "For example, writing a letter to a legislator is such an underrated skill, yet it is at the core of effective advocacy."

"The STARS program educates its students how to be effective advocates within all levels of government."

Legislators, faculty, advisers, and SGA members from 14 public universities in Alabama were involved in the partnership.

Jorge Solis, a senior political science major from Pell City and SGA vice president of legislative affairs, said that when students build relationships with administration and legislators, they have the capacity to influence local and state policy.

"The key to advocating for higher education is combining resources and building relationships to affect change," Solis said.

He also said that steps for advocating could include calling legislators, writing legislators, and even having lunch with legislators.

Twelve out of 67 counties in Alabama have a higher education institution in their region, totaling approximately 150,000 voters, according to the Higher Education Partnership website.

Students at Troy can also effect change by participating in Higher Education Day on Feb. 25, traveling to Montgomery, and joining other universities to support higher education funding.



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Advice to freshmen

RAs around campus share what they've learned for our incoming class

Tori Roper and Alyse Nelson
Staff Writer and Features Editor

"Go to class and take notes." – Kara Jane Henry, a junior mathematics major from Huntsville. (Shackelford)



"Never move your car. You will lose your parking spot." – Jordan Taylor, a sophomore global business major from Birmingham. (New Hall)

"Don't spend all your Flex Points in a month." – Trevan Anderson, a junior biomedical sciences major from Birmingham. (Gardner)



"Read your syllabus." – Leo Perdue, a sophomore psychology major from New Brockton. (Pace)

"Get plugged in. Don't be afraid to ask your RAs for advice." – Meleah Morris, a senior exercise science major from Orlando, Florida. (Clements)



"Use RateMyProfessors to schedule classes." – Robert Kichler, a sophomore global business major from Simms. (Trojan Village 300)

"Troy is what you make it. Don't be like, 'Oh, I'm bored.'"

"Talk to your professors." – Matt Mosley, a sophomore biomedical sciences major from Chipley, Florida. (Newman Center)



"Don't stress out and meet lots of people. Troy is what you make it. Don't be like 'Oh, I'm bored.'" – Sharnique McEachem, a junior broadcast journalism major from Ashville. (Coward)



"Learn how to parallel park if you live in the Shack quad. Or don't." – Hannah Edwards, a sophomore English major from Camden. (Coward)

"Get to your class 15 minutes early because some teachers actually lock you out. If you want to get Chick-fil-A, get there 30 minutes early. Enjoy the free things – they don't last long." – Camri Martin-Bowen, a sophomore nursing major from Wetumpka. (Hamil)



"Go to class. That's about it. College is a struggle." – Kalen Busby, a junior secondary education and English major from Slapout. (Pace)

The wake of the Wal-Mart apocalypse

Alyse Nelson
Features Editor

Students are scrambling to complete their school shopping as crews of workers and the Wal-Mart employees themselves take on the task of restoring the store.

According to WSFA 12, a spokesperson for Wal-Mart has said that the Troy Wal-Mart will not be completely reopened for a few months.

The grocery section and a temporary pharmacy are said to be opened much sooner, though exact dates for any of these events are not given at this time.

Within Troy, options for shopping in the meantime include: two locations for Piggly Wiggly, two locations for Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Rite Aid, Walgreens, CVS and Food World.

Among these stores, there isn't a single one that boasts the inventory of Wal-Mart alone, but the basics, such as groceries, toiletries, pharmacies, room decorations and storage and school supplies, are covered across the board.

Troy University has taken this fact into consideration with the revision of its bus route that previously ran to Wal-Mart several times a week.

"We have a temporary plan in place," said Megan Simon, international student adviser. "We will still run the bus, but it will have a different route."

Simon said that the bus will run this Thursday as regularly scheduled, but will first take students to Fred's, where it will wait for 30 minutes.

The bus then departs for the Food World shopping center, where students can shop at either Food World or Dollar Tree for one

Where do I go now?

As students look for new shopping outlets without making a trek elsewhere, here are some price comparisons and availability to keep in mind:

School and Dorm Supplies:

Lowe's
30 gallon storage tub: \$8.98
24 pocket over-the-door shoe organizer: \$9.98

Fred's
Filler paper: \$1
1-inch binder: \$2
16 pocket over-the-door shoe organizer: \$5.50

Dollar Tree
Filler paper: \$1
Various notebooks: \$1

Food World
Filler paper: \$1.79

Toiletries and Food:

Fred's
Tide Pods 31 ct: \$9
Breyers ice cream half gallon: \$4.50
Tombstone pizza: \$4.75

Food World
Tide Pods 31 ct: \$9.49
Breyers ice cream half gallon: \$4.79 (on sale)
Tombstone pizza: \$4.99 or \$9.99/3

(While Dollar Tree has a selection of toiletries and food, those price comparisons were not available.)

Samantha Bankester graphic

Though the above charts are not inclusive of all stores in Troy, they are exemplary of other options students have for shopping besides Wal-Mart. Statistics reflect prices as of Aug. 10.

hour, after which it will return to campus. "If it is really necessary, they can go to Walgreens also," she said.

"We've definitely had an influx of business," said Thomas Wooley, assistant manager at the Piggly Wiggly located directly off Highway 231. "We had one of the busiest weekends of the year."

"We are ordering a lot more of everything we carry," Wooley said of preparations the store is making to accommodate the new shoppers.

As for Wal-Mart, some of the employees remain working while the building is still inoperable.

"The employees will be part of the cleanup crew at the store, cleaning up debris from outside and wherever the inside is cleared by OSHA," said Jonathan Ray, a senior social science education major from Georgiana and a Wal-Mart employee.

Professional crews are handling other aspects of the restoration, such as repairing electrical lines and metal support beams, according to Ray.

"The employees that are not fit (too elderly, sick, medical issues) to be a part of the cleanup crew are given the opportunity to go to other Wal-Mart stores in the area to work there until the Troy store is reopened," Ray said.

"Since Wal-Mart is closed I'll be splitting up my shopping — grocery shopping at Piggly Wiggly, and personal essentials from Dollar General," he said.



April Irvin photo

As the Walmart staff splits into a cleanup crew and those transferring to other stores, students and citizens alike look for other places to shop.

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Cains' show goes on overseas

Lacey Alexander
Staff Writer

The Cains, formerly "The Cains Trio," released their self-titled five-track EP on July 21 to digital music retailers. The country record is the group's second to be produced and its first EP.

The trio, comprising three siblings from Hartselle who have all received undergraduate degrees from Troy University, is releasing this album through Daystreet Records.

All three siblings, Logan Cain, Madison Cain and Taylor Cain, are credited with songwriting on this album.

Logan Cain, the youngest and sole male of the group, said a lot of his music is inspired by his experiences at Troy University.

"Whether it was love or heartbreak, triumph or defeat, my experience with Troy changed my life forever," said Logan Cain, who graduated from Troy in 2014. "Most, if not all, of my inspiration comes from that time in my life."

The leadoff single, "Journey's End," is currently playing on Sirius XM's "The Highway" on Channel 56. While "The Highway" is a country music channel, Logan Cain said that he hopes all music fans can appreciate the band's music.

"While we are country, and have a

specific sound, my hope is that anyone from any walk of life can find something in our music and enjoy it," he said. "I believe that our target demographic is someone that doesn't isolate themselves to a specific genre or style."

Aside from the EP, the Cains have been working to promote their sound and music.

They worked with Bravo TV to create musical tracks for the channel's hit reality show, "Southern Charm," and performed at the Cyrus Family Theatre in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in late June.

Logan Cain said that he is proud of the final product regardless of its success.

"In the end, whether it succeeds or not, you can have peace knowing that your music was exactly what you wanted, no excuses," he said.

The Cains were selected to perform overseas at the Country to Country festival in London, and were featured on the cover of U.K. music magazine "UP! Country Magazine." They will be returning to the U.K. to tour in September.

Logan Cain also said that he and his sisters plan to perform in Troy after their international tour. "What a gift to know that we have our Trojan family behind us all the way," he said.

The EP is available for purchase on Google Play and iTunes.



The Cains photo

The Cains are composed of Madison (left), Taylor and Logan Cain. Their new self-titled EP dropped on July 21, which marks their sophomore release.

Popular Nintendo shooter gives spin on genre

Game offers third-person perspective and innovative gameplay

Scott McLendon
Staff Writer

The video game "Splatoon," a third-person shooter produced by Nintendo, has taken the Wii U online community by storm since its release this spring.

This popular shooter's featured weaponry uses pigmented ink as ammunition to cover the ground.

The game's focus is on strong team dynamics rather than one-on-one situations. Each team, represented by a different ink color, is composed of four members.

"Splatoon's" ink-based weaponry is in many cases used to take out opponents. The main use of these weapons, however, is to cover the ground with your ink.

As teams cover the ground with ink, they can gain many special advantages, and these advantages can range from stealth perks to increases in speed.

These gameplay mechanics are just some of what makes this game so unique and popular among players.

The main game mode throws two teams into an arena for an all-out turf war. Characters can morph into squids to glide swiftly through territory gained with the ink of their team.

Ranked matches start as "Splat Zones," where players capture and attempt to hold an



Nintendo photo

"Splatoon" features characters that can switch from being kids to squids. The weapons in-game shoot ink in complementary colors while players fight for dominance.

area. This game mode is for more experienced players or for those who want a challenge.

Reloading in this game doesn't involve the typical shooter system of magazine clips; the guns are refilled using the ink territory of the character's team.

Matchmaking takes under a minute, and if the process does take a while, players are offered a minigame while they wait.

Players in "Splatoon" are encouraged to "Stay fresh!" and the best way to do that is to get the best gear. Whether players have gear with great abilities, or it just looks cool, new gear is unlockable as players rise through the ranks.

Players start at level one and

can rise to level 50, thanks to a recent update. A lot of content was released on Aug. 5, including new stages, new battle modes and new gear.

Nintendo's huge update adds new game modes such as "Squad Battle," which allows players to play ranked matches with their friends. Private battles are also available, and this mode is fully customizable by the players.

Ranked battles now include "Tower Control," where both teams fight to control a central tower.

This update raised the level cap from 20 to 50, extended the highest rank from A+ to S+ and even added new gear.

Nintendo has been updating "Splatoon" since its release,

dropping new stages consistently and bringing the number of playable maps up to 10. Two more stages are slated for release soon.

Another part of the game's updates are new weapons. Players can find new ways to play all the time with different kinds of weapons. These weapons range from an ink brush to a "splating" gun.

There were three amiibos released along with "Splatoon," which feature the Inkling Girl, Inkling Boy, and Squid characters from the game. They each have special items that players can get upon completing challenges.

The Inkling Girl amiibo gives

players a schoolgirl outfit, the Inkling Boy has a full samurai suit and the Squid gives players a mech suit.

"Splatoon" is not only popular among everyday gamers, but it has also been well-received and critically acclaimed. The game received a score of 81/100 from Metacritic and a 7.9/10 from IGN.

This game boasts many coveted qualities a consumer looks for. "Splatoon" is not completely void of downsides, however. The art style is cartoonish and almost childlike.

Many team-based online games feature a messaging system. "Splatoon" offers no way to communicate with other players.

This is seen as both positive and negative depending on the gamer. Some see these shortcomings as simply part of the game's charm.

This quirky shooter is being updated regularly to sort out what gamers see as problems. The updates are also used to add content such as weapons and character customization options. Many of these updates include the suggestions of gamers.

Nintendo has always been known for its vivid, colorful ingenuity, and "Splatoon" is evidence that Nintendo has still got it.

The **Tropolitan staff** meets every Thursday night in room 107 of Wallace Hall at 5:30 p.m.

All students are welcome!

How do I become a Tropper?

We're glad you asked. Let us begin by saying not everyone is cut out from the same sterling Tropolitan mold. If you think you are, though, we want you on our team. Also, we have candy.

8/7-13 Find us on Facebook

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<p>FANTASTIC 4</p> <p>1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:35</p> <p>PG-13</p>	<p>THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.</p> <p>12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:25</p> <p>PG-13</p>
<p>PIXELS</p> <p>1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40</p> <p>PG-13</p>	<p>THE GIFT</p> <p>12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:30</p> <p>R</p>

UAC

\$1 Movie Night

Wednesday 8/19

Opens August 14th

STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON

ICE CUBE DR. DRE EAZY-E DJ YELLA MC REN

Opens August 13th

UNCLE. UNCLE. UNCLE.

1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:30

PG

minions

1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

PG

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00

R



Seth Nicholson

Digging deeper

Chase Robinson
Columnist

I lied. I said I was leaving the Tropolitian. I packed up my office, wrote a schmaltzy farewell column and prepared to leave the Trop behind.

I came back. The first week of May, just as the last issue of the spring semester was starting to gather dust, I decided I should write a weekly column while I complete my internship. The staff was agreeable to this proposal.

It wasn't until after the decision had been made that I came across a startling revelation. A column requires a topic. I had about 14 weeks to find one.

Seven weeks later I decided it was probably time to give this some serious consideration. It is amazing how many bad ideas you can come up with when you are drawing at straws.

With two weeks on the clock, I was fairly certain that my column should focus on current goings-on around campus. But that could be tedious for both the readers and me, so I dismissed the idea.

As reported by The New York Times, Time, Complete College America and the National Institution for Educational Statistics, more than half of students at public universities take more than four years to complete a four-year degree.

I am part of that statistic, and, with five years of higher education under my belt, surely I should have found something worth writing about. In 10 semesters, I should have learned something about Troy University that let me read its pulse and produce interesting material.

I looked back at my files and combed the Trop archives. There were stories about parking, book prices, dining hours, SGA meetings, school spirit, religion, housing, smoking and what, if anything, to do in Troy.

Before I was involved with the Trop, I was a frequent partici-

pant in after-class gripe sessions about all these overbeaten dead horses. As a reporter and editor for the Trop, I aided and abetted the battery of these metaphorical lifeless equines.

If I stared at these complaints and facts long enough, maybe some greater truth would emerge that I could publish every Thursday for the next few months.

I'd been hearing many of these same discussions since I was small. As I've said in a few bad pieces published in the Cardinal Rule, the Trop's game-day publication, I'm from Troy. My family has lived in this area nearly 200 years, and I'm a third generation student at Troy University.

With 200 years of family history, three generations of Trojans, five years of higher education, time logged in three different majors and 2.5 years of student journalism at my disposal, surely I could find some special angle.

My lackluster, late-game revelation was that this experience is my angle. Troy University isn't my suitcase college. Troy, Alabama, is my hometown. I've lived here all 23 long years of my short life.

Many of the problems that get discussed over lunch in the dining hall and in afternoon conversations in the Trojan Center have been topics during my entire life.

Often, we gloss over these problems. We skim the surface and diagnose the symptoms without digging to the cause.

These conversations end with the reminder that Troy does not change, and we resign ourselves to complain about the same problems for another year.

If, rather than dismissing our own complaints as more incurable aches of life in Troy, we seriously consider the causes and effects, we might arrive at a cure for what ails us.

The goal of this column will be to dig deeper, to analyze these problems and look for their real roots. I can't offer solutions to every complaint, but we can seek perspectives.

Ain't no place like dorms

Jane Morrell
Opinion Editor

There is that old saying that home is where the heart is, but in regards to residential housing on a college campus, home is where there is a space left open that you can afford.

For most freshmen, like Miranda Jones, an undeclared major from Decatur, it is their first time away from home, and there is a mixture of excitement and fear.

"My best friend and I are roommates," Jones said. "I was excited to be able to live with her, but nervous at the same time because I was going into a new environment."

Besides getting into college, finding out where you are going to live is the next important aspect of entering into the world of a university.

Finding the right dorm not only impacts the freshmen, but it is an obstacle that all class ranks have to face when it comes to the annual housing applications in the spring.

With some of the more recent additions to campus, such as Trojan Village, the Newman Center and the new residence hall, there has been some gripe from the student body concerning the available space and the cost of these new dorms.

"We saw a huge influx of freshmen this year," Sara Jo Burks, assistant director of housing and residence life, said about the increase in students. "You've just got more people coming to college than years ago."

Trojan Village allows for students to have their own individual bedroom units in a large dorm that is shared with other roommates — and Burks said she has heard positive feedback from students after it was built.

"What we saw more than anything else is that people wanted an individual bedroom," Burks said. "A lot of people are used to living in their own bedroom at home; a lot of them are used to having their own bathroom at home."

"They're not used to sharing a living space," she said.

Newman does not provide students with individual room units, but there is moderate privacy in these dorms and they are still somewhat more furnished than other suites.

The new residence hall offers students individual units that include a bathroom, bookshelf and, most notably, a smart flat screen TV.

Also, this new building holds two tornado shelters, which, in light of recent events, makes this dorm all the more appealing to students.

Are these new dorm styles really all that special in comparison to the older dorms offered on campus?

Well, according to Burks, the most popular dorm on campus is Clements Hall, a suite-style co-ed dorm that was renovated several years ago.

"Clements is very clean, and we love the suite style because it gives you the privacy of

not having to share a bathroom with the whole hall," said Jones, a Clements Hall resident. "It is also close to the dining hall and the quad."

Traditional housing, as defined by the University and by Burks, is housing that requires residents to share a community bathroom. Hamil Hall, a female-only dorm, and Gardner Hall, a male-only dorm, are the only two that are classified as traditional housing.

The rest of the residence halls qualify as suite-style rooms, like the newer built residences, but are much older.

"I picked this dorm (Clements) because I thought it was cleaner and more up to date than some of the other, older suite-style rooms," Jones said.

The newer residence halls offer more privacy than the older suites, but Burks said she fears that this might do harm to those who are introverted.

"The only concerns I have are that if you're an introvert, that you may get in that room and you might not get out and socialize, and have that full experience," Burks said.

At the moment, it is hard to determine which residential style, whether classic or new, is better for a student to live in since this will be the first time anyone has lived in the new residence hall, and it would be unfair to already deem it one way or the other.

Complaints about the new residence hall not being completed have already circulated around the campus, and on social media.

"There's a few little odds and ends that they are still working on," Burks explained. "But it's totally livable; all your furniture is in there."

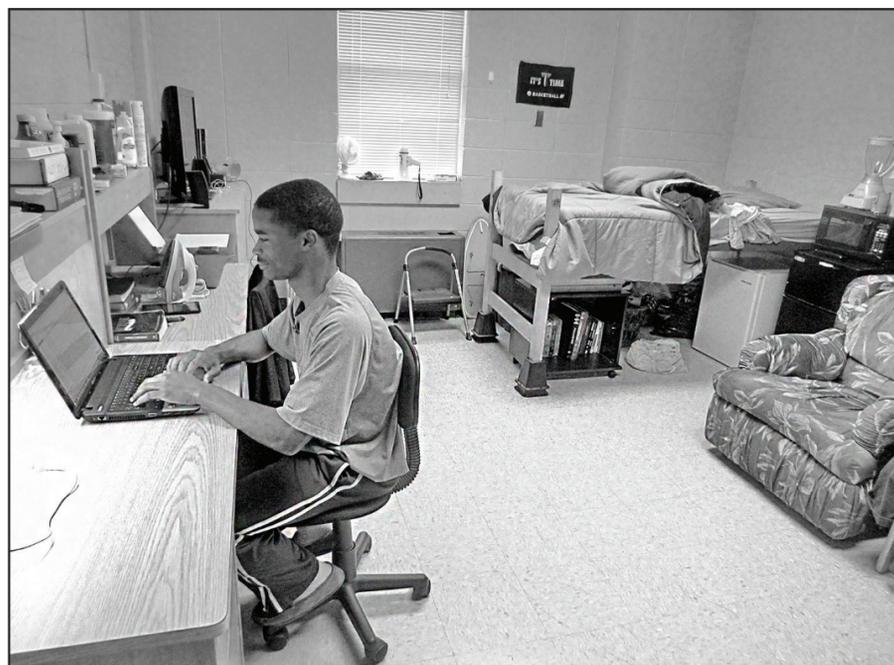
I learned from speaking to Burks that, while there are still issues with some things not working or needing fixing — not just in the new dorm, but in others as well — the university has only a few days before classes begin to fix all that it can for incoming students.

Over the summer break, Troy University hosts a variety of camps, as well as the Special Olympics every year, and those who participate in these camps reside in dorms during their stays.

Burks said that the school attends to the most urgent requests first; for example, the student with the broken air conditioner while it's nearly 100 degrees outside will hold a little priority over the student with the bent towel rack.

While it is easy to complain, students should understand that, like the construction with this new dorm on campus, the housing process takes time and might not always meet our expectation of perfection.

Regardless of all the issues, moving into a dorm still carries the sense of adventure for all students. For seniors, when they open the doors to their rooms, they know that it will be the last holding place for old memories, and for freshmen it will be opening the doors for making new ones.



Larry Willis photo

Morris Turner, a senior finance major from Mobile, studies in his room at Gardner Hall, an all-male, traditional-style dorm.

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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Troy soccer gears up for 2015 season

Scott McLendon
Staff Writer

The Troy University women's soccer program started exhibition play on Tuesday, Aug. 11, as the team looks to build on last year's success.

The Trojans are coming off one of the most successful seasons in school history, having broken 21 school records during the 2014 season.

"I think we'll finish in the top two in the regular season," head coach Jason Hamilton said. "We were playing with a skeleton crew last season, and we did well. This year we have more depth."

Hamilton said the junior class was the heart of last year's team.

"Chelsey Williams, the all-time leading scorer in school history, is returning," Hamilton said. "Right behind her on the goal count is Alissa Jones, who is also returning. The duo was responsible for 20 of last season's 41 total goals."

This year's squad will suit up 17 incoming freshmen to strengthen the lineup.

"Right now, in preseason, we're focused on meshing the incoming players with those returning," Hamilton said. "We have to adapt these players to our system of high-pressing, attacking soccer."



April Irvin photo

Senior midfielder Alissa Jones (left) led the Trojans in goals (12) and the Sun Belt Conference in assists (10) to lead Troy's offensive attack.

With key offensive players such as Williams and Jones returning, the Trojans hope to be competitive in both non-conference and conference play. The defense also looks to carry its defensive dominance over from last year to this year.

Sophomore goalkeeper Mikki Lewis will return as a starter after a successful freshman career, recording 67 saves and 11 shutouts.

"We expect freshman Marli Batiste to step up immediately in the center of our defense," Hamilton said. "Also look for fellow freshman Brooke McKee to compete for offensive rookie of the year."

The Trojans will have a tough non-conference schedule, with games on the road against SEC powerhouses Florida and Alabama. Troy also looks to continue its home win streak this season, with a schedule that includes a matchup against rival South Alabama.

The Trojans look to get even after the Jaguars edged Troy last season for the Sun Belt Conference title.

The Trojans start the season with an exhibition at Florida, with kickoff set for 6 p.m. Troy does not begin its regular season until Friday, Aug. 21, when it opens non-conference play at home against Gardner-Webb.

Troy vs. Gardner Webb
Friday, August 21
7:00pm
@ Troy Soccer Complex

Troy coach suspended



Troy Athletics photo

Jamaal Smith, director of player development, was arrested on Friday, June 19, on DUI and promoting prison contraband charges.

Director of player development awaits court date following arrest

Michael Shipma
Sports Editor

Jamaal Smith is "suspended without pay pending the outcome of legal proceedings."

According to an email sent by Andy Ellis, director of university relations, this is the current status of Smith, the former director of player development for the football program.

Troy police arrested Smith, 32, on Friday, June 19, after Smith was pulled over and charged with driving under the influence.

"Smith was escorted back to his cell after completing an exit test for a DUI arrest," Troy police records show.

Records also show that during the exit test at the city jail, Smith was arrested when a small bag containing a green leafy substance that tested positive for marijuana was found on his person.

Upon this discovery, Smith was transported to the Pike County jail on a felony drug possession charge.

Smith attended a preliminary hearing on Tuesday, July 21, where Pike County District Judge William G. Hightower oversaw his case.

Troy police records show that Smith

was bound over to await action from the grand jury, which will decide whether to indict him (charge him). If he is indicted and pleads not guilty, he will have the right to a trial.

The grand jury will meet Oct. 28.

However, the district attorney's office filed a motion to "nolle prosequi," which means that the DA's office has moved Smith into the deferred prosecution program. If Smith meets all the conditions of the program, his case will be dismissed.

Despite the fact that a felony conviction would be the norm for a case such as this, there is a possibility that Smith's felony charge could be dropped.

Smith's position in the football program is currently vacant, according to the Troy athletics website.

Smith attended Troy from 2001-2005, graduating with a degree of risk management and insurance. Smith also played wide receiver for the Trojans' football team during his time at Troy.

After two years away from football, Smith returned to Troy as a graduate assistant in 2007 and has been with the program since.

Troy mourns loss of student-athlete

Michael Shipma
Sports Editor

The Troy University family mourned the death of student-athlete Corey McCullers after he was killed in a car accident on Saturday, June 20.

McCullers, 19, died when the car he was driving collided with another vehicle on U.S. Highway 231 and struck a parked travel trailer roughly 6 miles north of the Troy campus.

"This is a terrible tragedy, and our hearts hurt for the McCullers family," former Troy Athletic Director John Hartwell said. "We are reminded every day how precious life is, and the thoughts and prayers of the Troy University family are with his family, friends and teammates as they mourn the beautiful life that Corey lived."

McCullers walked on to the Troy football team last season as a redshirt freshman and played on the practice squad during the 2014 season.

McCullers, who was a member of Troy's 3.0 club, graduated from Holtville High School, where he played football, track and field, basketball,



Troy Athletics photo

McCullers, a redshirt freshman last season, was killed in a car accident on Saturday, June 20.

and soccer. McCullers was named all-state as a goalkeeper for the Bulldogs during his high school career.

"The Troy football family is heartbroken today over the sudden loss of Corey McCullers," Troy football head coach Neal Brown said. "There is no greater tragedy than

losing a young man with a bright future far too soon.

"Corey was a true Trojan who loved Troy University and his teammates. Our staff and players will always remember Corey's work ethic and his positive attitude. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends."

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North end zone will break ground in 2016

Michael Shipma
Sports Editor

The home of Troy University football will look different after this year.

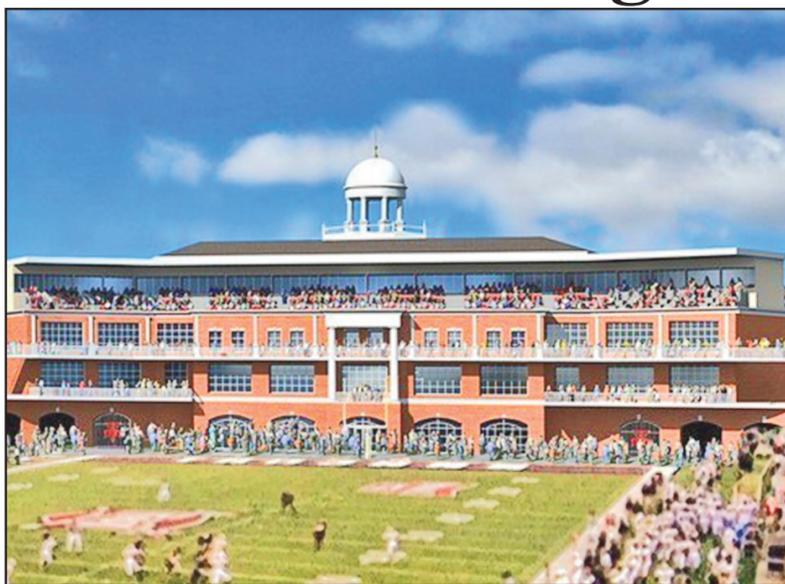
The construction of a brand new facility at the north end zone of Veterans Memorial Stadium is planned to begin after the upcoming football season.

The east and west sides of the football stadium will be connected with a state-of-the-art facility, which will include new locker room space for players, coaches, and officials, as well as an equipment room, a game day training room, a rehab room, a nutrition area, a recruiting lounge, team meeting rooms, video rooms, a Hall of Fame area, and a "T Club" area.

The structure will also allow for the potential addition of club level seating, fan entertainment areas, or lodge seating.

Dr. Jim Bookout, the senior vice chancellor of finances and business affairs at Troy University, has overseen the task of raising the funds necessary to making major stadium improvements into a reality.

"The current operations facility is outdated and does not contain sufficient space," Bookout said in an email



Troy Athletics

A new facility resembling this artist's rendering will be constructed behind the north end zone of Veterans Memorial Stadium and is planned to be completed by July 2017.

interview. "The new facility will also be used as the base for the end zone scoreboard that will be the largest in the Sun Belt Conference."

The initial idea for the stadium improvements was not recent, however.

"The idea for an end zone facility originated about five years ago with

the understanding that private money would have to be raised in addition to the revenue being brought in from ticket and suite sales," Bookout said.

While the facility was originally designed to accommodate the needs of other Trojan sports, the project was revised in the past year to focus on becoming a more football-focused facility, with a budget of \$17 million.

The new facility will allow visitors to use the recently renovated Tine Davis Fieldhouse as their locker room and move the Trojans' locker room into the new facility.

Furthermore, the relocation of the student academic center to the Tine Davis Fieldhouse remains a possibility throughout the process of shuffling facility occupancy.

With the construction of a new facility for the north end zone, other Trojan sports can expect to receive their own updated facilities in the coming years.

Unless another sport comes forward with a more pressing need, Bookout said, the track and field team will receive a new track, and there will be a new indoor facility for the tennis program.

The expected completion date for the new facility is July 2017.

Troy, South to announce rivalry

Michael Shipma
Sports Editor

The Student Government Associations from both Troy University and the University of South Alabama are accepting names and trophy ideas for the decades-old rivalry between the two schools.

The title and trophy are expected to be unveiled at a Troy-South Alabama basketball game this upcoming season.

The official decision between the Sun Belt rivals was announced through a tweet from South Alabama's SGA on Tuesday, June 23.

Maxwell Herman, a junior hospitality management major from Panama City, Florida, and SGA senator at Troy, came up with the idea during the fall 2014 semester.

Herman, who attended Troy's football game at Georgia, said he was impressed by the presence and involvement of all

the clubs and activities that went into the gameday experience on campus. Herman's idea was to bring that gameday experience back to Troy.

"The SGA resolution that came about was created with the goal of improving our game day experience in mind," Herman said. "We want something that the students can get behind."

Herman said the idea was "put on the back burner" for the spring. At the beginning of the summer, he contacted the SGA at South Alabama to help bring the concept to fruition.

"Ravi (Rajendra), South Alabama's SGA president, has been a tremendous help throughout this process," Herman said.

South Alabama's SGA called for suggestions via Twitter as announced in a July article published by The Vanguard, South Alabama's student newspaper. Sug-



April Irvin photo

Troy looks to get back on track after losing to South Alabama last year 27-13. Troy leads the overall series 2-1.

gestions can be submitted directly to the SGA, or via either Troy or USA's SGA Twitter pages.

Further development will continue

when both associations return to session at the start of the fall 2015 semester. Troy's SGA will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

SGA Senate Elections

Troy University's Student Government Association represents the Troy student body within the university administration and the community. SGA advocates the interests of Troy students and works to better the student experience through community events and opportunities.

Important Information and Dates

Senate applications available Aug 17 online and in TC 215

Applications due Aug 28 by 4 pm in TC 215

Elections will be Sept 2 between 8 am - 5 pm in TC 215

Residence Halls

Senate Seats Available

Clements

1

Cowart

1

Gardner

1

Hamil

1

Hillcrest, Honors, Paden

1

New Residence Hall

2

Pace

1

Shackelford

1

Trojan Village

2

At Large

1

"As representatives of Troy University, we commit to excellence in leadership through service, enthusiasm, and Trojan Pride!"

Follow us! Twitter and Instagram: @TroySGA; We are also on Facebook!

Visit www.troy.edu/sga for more information

TROY UNIVERSITY FRESHMAN FORUM

Freshman Forum is the branch of Student Government Association which is made up of approximately 50 freshmen and two directors. We are held here to help the freshman leaders get connected around the TROY campus, in the community, and begin making lifelong friendships. The members of Freshman Forum have to go through an application and interview process.

Important Dates To Remember

The application was made available online on August 1st & will close on August 19th.

We encourage all freshmen who are eager to make an impact on Troy's campus to apply for an opportunity to serve through Freshman Forum.

