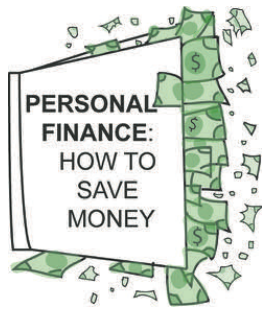


What's Inside:



Don't spend more than you have to on textbooks
pg. 2

AOTT
How to join new sorority
pg. 12

This special summer edition of the Tropolitan is a guide to campus life prepared by student journalists. It's tailored for new students, especially those attending IMPACT summer orientation.

Troy University's Official Student Newspaper

TROPOLITAN

Vol. 90, Issue 30

www.TropNews.com/impact

Summer 2017



Hannah Stone photo

Football rises through the ranks

Football players high-five fellow Troy students who came to support their team at Troy's Veterans Memorial Stadium in its game against UMass on Nov. 5, 2016. The Trojans won 52-31. For more information about the rise of Troy's football team, visit Page 9.

Old arena to get 'rec'ed

New rec center groundbreaking set this summer

Hannah Stone

Construction for a university recreation center is projected to start at the beginning of August 2017, with completion expected in November 2018, according to Olivia Melton, 2016-17 president of the Student Government Association.

According to Jim Bookout, senior vice chancellor of finance and business affairs, construction will begin as soon as the plans are finalized, with the goal of starting in August.

"The process has been successful, and the architects have been guided by the Wellness and Recreation Center Committee comprised of four students, two senior vice chancellors, two student services representatives, the city of Troy's rec center director, physical plant and a project manager," Bookout said. "The process to date has taken several months."

In the fall of 2016, a \$100 fee was tacked on to the bill of each full-time student to help pay for construction.

According to Bookout, Troy's Board of Trustees will increase the fee by \$25 every four years.

"The fees will pay the debt service on the bonds used to build the facility," Bookout said. "The fees do not cover the operational expenses of the facility."

"We decided that the best thing for Troy long-term would be to make this new rec center the face of Troy," said SGA Sen. Sierra



Artist's rendering of an aerial view of the new recreation facility planned to be completed in 2018. Design is subject to change.

Clark, an exercise science major from Birmingham who was a junior in the spring.

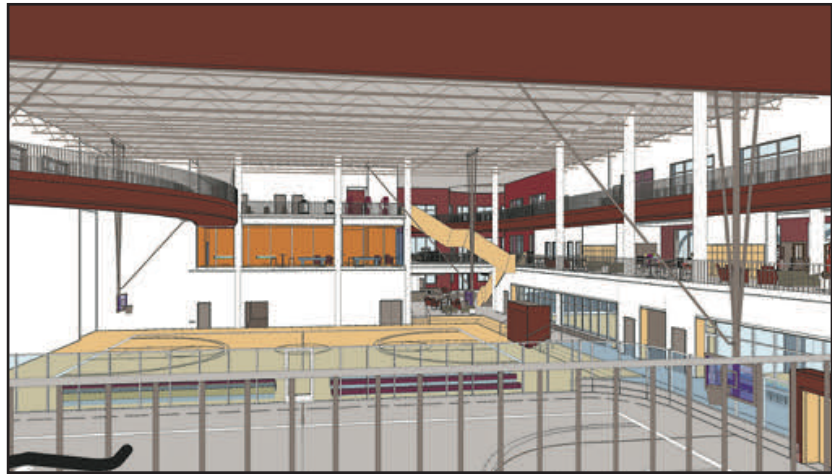
The new rec center will be built where the Sartain Hall parking lot is now located, during which Sartain will remain operational. After the new rec center is built, Sartain will be torn down to create a parking lot.

With parking already a concern, the university announced plans for a new parking lot near the Trojan Center earlier this year. The new lot

is expected to be ready in October to replace the lost Sartain parking, according to Melton.

Melton, a mathematics and economics major from Orange Beach who was a senior in the spring, encourages students to take advantage of the university's transit system when parking will be short early in the fall. Bookout suggests that students use the outer lots, such as the Trojan Arena lot.

See **Rec**, Page 6



Artist's rendering of an inside look of the new recreational facility. Design is subject to change.

Prevent freshie errors

Santana Wood

Not getting involved early, eating too much campus Chick-fil-A, and neglecting to learn where the library was before mid-semester are among the things Allyson Waldrop, social work major from Cullman, regrets from her freshman year at Troy University.

Freshman year is the first year of college and a time of firsts for many things. It is where you start gaining a degree, but also friendships and life experiences. Students strive to do their best, but mistakes happen.

"I would tell incoming freshmen to get involved early," said Waldrop, who was a senior in the spring. "I didn't join an organization right away, and it got real boring, real quick."

Waldrop has been involved with Alpha Delta Pi sorority, which helped her gain friends as well as get some volunteer work in the books.

See **Mistakes**, Page 14

You can appeal a parking ticket to student panel

Justin Blowers

Kylie Foor walked out of her dorm to be greeted by an officer writing her a parking ticket. But that wasn't the end of her story.

Her ticket was just one of the many given on Troy University's main campus. A total of 8,480 parking tickets were given in six months, according to the Troy University Police Department.

Getting a ticket is a reality that many Troy University students have to face. However, you can appeal a ticket.

Foor, a psychology major from Enterprise who was a junior in the spring, decided to appeal to the Traffic Appeals Committee.

Daniel Patterson from Alpharetta, Georgia, who was chairman of the committee and a junior political science major in the spring, said there is no reason to be nervous or intimidated about the process.

"We're not mean people," Patterson said. "We're all just students."

The first step is to go

to the web address at the bottom of the ticket. The appeal form can also be found under the traffic appeals tab, which is under the SGA tab, on the Troy University website.

Next, you should submit the parking ticket online along with any argument as to why the ticket should be voided.

The more evidence you have—especially pictures—the better, according to Patterson.

"Make sure you have all the facts you believe are relevant," he said. "Don't come in without any facts, and know where you parked."

See **Tickets**, Page 7

PARKING CITATION	
TROY UNIVERSITY	
TICKETS: Inevitable	
FINES:	
Parking/Driving on Grass	\$50
Wheel Lock Removal	\$50
Local Noise Ordinance	\$75
Tow Away Zone/ Blocking	\$75
Dumpster	
Service Areas/ Loading Docks	\$75
Fire Lane	
Littering	\$75
Handicap Parking/ Blocking	\$75
HC Ramp	
All other violations	\$10
TO ENFORCE THESE POLICIES, TROY UNIVERSITY WILL USE WHEEL LOCKS FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS	

Sable Riley graphic

Recipe for success: Chancellor advises four steps

Jack Hawkins Jr.,
Ph.D.
Chancellor

On behalf of the Troy University family, welcome to the 2017 IMPACT sessions, which will provide an orientation to your new college home.

I am glad you have chosen Troy University, and I believe in time you will believe it was one of the best decisions of your life.

After serving as chan-



Jack Hawkins Jr.,
chancellor of Troy University

cellor for 28 years, there is a great deal of advice I could give you about

getting the most out of your TROY experience. I will focus on what I believe are the four most important topics.

1. As Alabama's International University, TROY enrolls students from almost 80 nations around the world.

Take advantage of this opportunity to get to know classmates from other cultures.

You will make lifetime friends, and you will better prepare yourself for success in the international

marketplace that awaits you after graduation.

2. Get involved!

Involved students are usually successful students. Join a special-interest club, play intramural sports or pledge a Greek organization.

A word of warning, however: Don't get so involved that you neglect your academic work.

3. Be smart with your money, and manage your debt.

Last year, total student debt in the USA topped

\$1.3 trillion and for the first time was greater than credit card debt.

Do not take out student loans unless you absolutely need them. Manage your money wisely by following an expense budget.

4. Learn TROY traditions.

It's important to know the words of the alma mater and the fight song. Take time to learn about the history of the University.

Finally, take the advice

of comedian Woody Allen, who said, "Ninety percent of success is showing up!"

Go to class, and get to know your professors. They will be happy to help you if you show an interest in your academic work.

Again, I am pleased that you chose Troy University, and I hope the IMPACT sessions are interesting and informative.

Do not hesitate to ask questions of your IMPACT leaders! They are there to assist you.

Finding the best textbook for you

Sydney Taylor

Angela Clark opens her laptop’s browser, class schedule in hand, and searches for the least expensive textbooks she can find.

“I can’t afford to waste money on textbooks,” said Clark, an anthropology major from Birmingham who was a junior in the spring. “So I make sure to check every possible source for the best price.”

According to the Office of Financial Aid’s Cost of Attendance document, the average cost of books and supplies for the 2016-2017 fall and spring semesters was \$1,129.

Clark attempts to keep that price down, which sometimes means getting books from somewhere other than the campus Barnes & Noble bookstore.

“What I don’t think a lot of incoming freshmen realize is that you don’t have to get your books strictly from the school’s bookstore,” Clark said. “I typically get mine from Chegg, Amazon and the bookstore.”

‘Ask your professor’

Jonathon Carswell, a biology major from Troy who was a senior in the spring, has a list of rules when purchasing textbooks.

“Rule No. 1, ask your professor if the book is required and needed for success in a class,” he said. “Rule No. 2, check multiple sources. If the difference is plus or minus \$20, buy your book elsewhere because that difference adds up.”

He also suggests that new students talk to their academic advisers about four-year plans so they know which books they will need more than once.

In the fall of 2016, the Barnes & Noble campus bookstore began price-match-



Sydney Taylor photo

Angela Clark, an anthropology major from Birmingham who was a junior in the spring, shops for textbooks and supplies in the Troy University Barnes & Noble bookstore.

ing textbooks. This means that if a student finds a textbook at a lower cost somewhere else, the bookstore will sell the student that book at the lower price.

According to Christopher Wade, the assistant manager at the campus Barnes & Noble, the store will price-match new, used, and used rental textbooks from Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com.

The books that the students find to price-match must be fulfilled and shipped by the Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com stores specifically, in the same condition, meaning used or new, and in stock on the site and on campus.

“The students have the burden of proof when it comes to price matching,” Wade

said.

Alison Bradley, the textbook charge coordinator for Student Financial Services, discussed the university’s textbook policy.

Buy books anywhere

“The university’s policy is that you can get textbooks from any source, and that’s OK with us,” Bradley said. “However, because we have a contract with the campus bookstore, we can 100 percent guarantee that your books will be there and that you can use financial aid there.”

Bradley added that students should know that even if they get financial aid, it will not automatically pay for textbooks.

“It’s important for students to realize that financial aid will only pay for books if you are able to charge from a refund.”

A financial aid refund is the surplus money you receive after your tuition, room and board, meal plan and any other fees have been paid for.

If a student plans to use financial aid to pay for textbooks at the bookstore, the student must complete all requirements to receive aid.

Financial aid problems

“The main problems we experience are when students have not gotten their ducks in a row,” Wade said. “They’ll sometimes forget to sign a promissory note or complete the paperwork, and because we aren’t financial aid, we are unable to fix it. Another big problem is that they’ll wait too long and miss the deadline to use their aid.”

According to Bradley, students have around a month to buy or rent textbooks using financial aid. The deadline for using financial aid is typically the Monday after classes have begun.

For fall 2017, students will be able to begin using financial aid to purchase books on July 24 and the deadline for using aid is Aug. 21.

“We love helping students,” Bradley said. “But students have to help themselves. That’s my golden rule. I will do anything I can for you, when I can. If it’s after the deadline, it’s after the deadline.”

Bradley suggested that students rent or buy books early and also check with professors to guarantee that the textbooks will actually be required before the deadline to return books passes.

If using the campus bookstore, students can also make purchases online through their Web Express accounts or at troy.bncollege.com.

All about Hogwarts, other novelties

Samuel Mattison

Quills, scrolls and Harry Potter are items that you might not associate with a college course, but you will find them at Troy University.

Noel Kaylor, professor of English, taught a course called Selected Topics in Literature about J.K. Rowling’s seven Harry Potter novels during spring 2017. And it’s not the only unusual course that you will find on campus.

Harry Potter

Harry Potter is a fictional book and movie series featuring a protagonist of the same name attending Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. The books mainly focus on his adventures with his friends and quest to defeat an evil wizard named Voldemort.

The course gained media attention, with Kaylor being featured on multiple radio shows, newspapers and online websites. Seventeen students enrolled.

“It’s definitely the most unique course I’ve taught,” Kaylor said.

Students complete their work on pieces of parchment. Kaylor said some students even use quills in keeping with the tradition of the Harry Potter franchise.

Kaylor said the response from students has been “extremely positive,” and he has considered teaching the course again.

“If there is a demand, I’ll do it again,” Kaylor said.

Tim Brannum, an English major from Pelham who was a freshman in the spring, was a student in the Harry Potter course.

Brannum said that he enjoyed the course and the way class was conducted.

The course offered deep discussions into philosophy, language and ideologies and even a look into the psyche of author

Rowling.

“The class gives an interesting insight into the books,” Brannum said.

When asked why he joined the class, he had a simple reply:

“I was a fan of Harry Potter.”

‘The Twilight Zone’

On another side of campus, a group of students wait in a classroom to begin their course. As class starts, the lights dim and a TV show opening is played.

“You’re traveling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind,” the show’s opening says. “A journey into a wondrous land of imagination. Next stop, the Twilight Zone!”

David “Doc” Kirby, a lecturer of communication, taught a course called Journalism and Social Justice in “The Twilight Zone” during the fall 2016 semester. The course focused on watching and interpreting the meaning behind episodes from “The Twilight Zone.”

“The Twilight Zone” is a fictional anthology series from the 1960s featuring stories from a dimension known as the Twilight Zone. Each episode focuses on a protagonist being put into a situation that is both bizarre and thought-provoking.

“For me, it was more than a TV show,” Kirby said.

Kirby said what appear to be just entertaining stories are windows into the deep, complicated nature of humankind. He said the course was designed to let students view the world in a more complex and deep way.

Kirby said a student told him that the course made him a fan of the series.

How it happens

Hal Fulmer, the vice provost and the dean for undergraduate studies at Troy

University, said before a course is handed to the administration to be put into the schedule, it must first pass the approval of its department.

“With course offerings, the chair and the dean are the two critical decision-makers,” Fulmer said. “For degree programs, these two are critical in initiating the new programs, and I get involved in the approval process.”

Classes are proposed by professors in a department. Then, they are given to

the dean and chair of that department to approve.

Kirk Curnutt, the chairman of the English department, said Kaylor was the originator of the “Harry Potter” idea.

“It was a no-brainer, and we are happy to offer it,” Curnutt said.

Troy University will offer a variety of unique courses in the fall, including archery, beginning swimming, beginning tennis, physical defense for women, and scuba diving.

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Students made special edition of Tropolitan for newcomers

Students can use this special summer edition of the Tropolitan as a guide to help achieve success at Troy University.

This edition is designed specifically for students participating in IMPACT summer orientation, but also distributed to students on campus at the end of spring semester 2017.

Students who worked on this project as writers, editors, photographers and advertising sales representatives include the following:

Lacey Alexander, Holly Ammons, Josiah Askew, Tori Bedsole, Sarah Blain, Justin Blowers, Alexander Collier, Kathleen Egbert, Alex Foxx, LaBrecia Jackson, Sam Mattison, Shelby Miller, Graham Pierce, Sinclair Portis, Sable Riley, Nathaniel Rodriguez, James Shipma, Mynecia Steele, Hannah Stone, Sydney Taylor and Santana Wood.

For most, the special edition was part of their work during spring journalism classes taught by Steve Stewart.

During the fall and spring semesters, students publish the Tropolitan every Thursday as an extracurricular activity, not connected with any class. Other student media include the Palladium yearbook and Trojan-Vision television news.

You need not be a journalism major to work on these media. Newcomers are welcome. Tropolitan and Palladium scholarships are available.

For information about the student media or the Hall School of Journalism and Communication, contact Stewart at 334-670-3328 or the J-school office at 334-670-3583. Or email sstewart71298@troy.edu.

Dealing with college's stress

Nathaniel Rodriguez

If Mary Stewart, a social work major from Prattville who was a junior in the spring, had not learned to cope with her stress, she might not have survived.

In the fall of 2015, Stewart was dealing with being an accounting major, a student leader for The Fellowship of Catholic University Students, a Trojan Ambassador and a resident assistant for the Newman Center.

The weight of all these activities caught her by surprise.

"Honestly, when I started off, I was very eager," Stewart said. "I became extremely overwhelmed later."

Taking time

To deal with her stress, Stewart took time for herself, investing in hobbies such as reading and drawing. She also found that being involved helped ease her stress.

Stewart's case is not unique. Many students come to Troy University unprepared for the stress of university life due to lack of external motivators to keep them on track, according to Dr. Andrew Creamer, chairman of the counseling, rehabilitation and interpreter training department.

Some students who have pre-existing psychological or emotional issues can also be adversely affected by the pressure, although some benefit from the structure it provides.

"We probably see a split between both sides, but a lot of people thrive when they're struggling," Creamer said.

To deal with their stress, some students turn to different methods of coping, although some are harmful.

Coping techniques such as procrastination, drinking, binge eating and



Nathaniel Rodriguez photo

Mary Stewart, a social work major from Prattville who was a junior in the spring of 2017, works while on duty at the Newman Center.

drug abuse often make matters worse.

"If I start drinking, when I sober up, I'm going to be depressed, and then I'm not going to be able to do my best work," Creamer said. "It's compounding factors coming into play."

To manage stress, it is important to take care of physical health first by maintaining a healthy eating and sleep schedule, according to Creamer.

He also explained the importance of serotonin, which functions as a mood stabilizer. If people are stressed, they can create serotonin by exercising or being exposed to sunlight.

Taking control

The last tip Creamer gave was to maintain a planner to keep events and priorities organized and prevent a loss of control.

The university has resources for students who need mental help. The Student Counseling Center at 113 College Drive provides free counseling to students who are enrolled in at least one credit hour on Troy's main campus.

In addition to the counseling center, there are student organizations such as Trojan Outreach and the National Alliance on Mental Illness on Campus (NAMI).

Trojan Outreach provides stress relief materials, such as stress balls, art journals and coping boxes, to students for no cost.

"We also just try to have at least one day a semester that we dedicate to just being like a stress-free day where we have a bunch of games out and stuff for people to do that isn't related to school or work or anything else," said Nelson DeLucca, housing liaison for Trojan Outreach and a psychology major from Smiths Station who was a senior in the spring.

NAMI on Campus serves as a support group for students dealing with mental illness. These students provide peer support for each other.

"We want to have

a group of students: freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, graduate level," said Dr. Joel Willis, assistant professor of rehabilitation and faculty adviser to NAMI on Campus.

Group support

"All these folks together, we want them to come together and have a group where they can get support where they need it."

Students like Stewart, who eventually figure out how to cope with stress, learn how to perform better and apply their lessons outside school.

"Since I'm going into social work, it's a job where people can get easily burnt out if they don't learn to use coping methods," Stewart said.

"I would say I'm pretty prepared. My professors do a pretty good job with teaching how to apply what you learn in class to your future career."

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Say WHAT?

The Tropolitan asked five professors the following question:

What advice would you give to incoming students enrolling in your class?

“Make sure you go to your classes. I don’t even care if you have the right answers to your stuff, or if you have all of it. What I’m looking for is that you tried—made an attempt.”
—**Ken LaBrant**, director of the university honors program

“Students need to take responsibility. Talk to the instructor early. Seek to understand, and then study.”
—**John Kline**, distinguished professor of leadership and director of the Troy University Institute for Leadership Development

“Understand that we are human beings. We do not try to make classes exceedingly difficult. We are concerned about their success, sometimes more than they are. We really, really hate to fail students.”
—**Susan Sarapin**, assistant professor of multimedia journalism and communication

“Consider this the beginning of your career, and if it’s something you would not do in your career, then don’t do it in school.”
—**Richard Nokes**, associate professor of English

“I would recommend that students (a) show up on time, (b) take lots of notes, (c) study their notes thoroughly, and (d) remember that learning is fun.”
—**Christopher Bradley**, associate professor of sociology

Prof peeves: sleepers, unprepared students

Sable Riley

“If I see a student nodding off, I have some kind of respect,” said Richard Nokes, associate professor of English. “They’re trying to stay awake. They dragged their butts to class, and they’re trying to stay awake.”

Nokes said he is particularly annoyed with “the ones who are like ‘the heck with this, I’m just going to put my head down,’ ” for which his usual response is to ask them where they live and tell them they are welcome to sleep in his class.

“But, at 3 a.m., when they’re trying to sleep, I’m going to break in their house, stand over their bed and lecture them about today’s lecture,” Nokes said.

Students sleeping in his class is one among a plethora of pet peeves Nokes and other professors listed concerning student behaviors in the classroom.

Nokes, who has worked at Troy for 14 years, recalled many personal and professional peeves he has developed as an educator.

One of his top concerns rests with students who have not completed the out-of-class assignments and arrive in class unprepared.

“If you’ve arrived to a college-level classroom without something to write on and something to write with, then, when you leave the classroom, you should walk immediately to the registrar’s office and withdraw,” Nokes said. “because you’re not ready for a college-level education nor, frankly, adulthood.”

“You should probably go back to your high school and ask them to re-admit you as a freshman; perhaps even your elementary school would be my suggestion.”

Nokes said that it’s one thing to say you were too busy to do the assignments, but “when you show up without the basic tools to do those things, what you’re really saying is ‘I have no intention of doing those things.’ It wasn’t that ‘I got busy’; it was that ‘I never wanted to.’ ”

His biggest pet peeve is students engaging in behaviors that distract other students.


He recounted one experience with a freshman years ago, whom he described figuratively as an “endless shoe polisher,”

See **Peeves**, Page 5


PALLADIUM

YEARBOOK

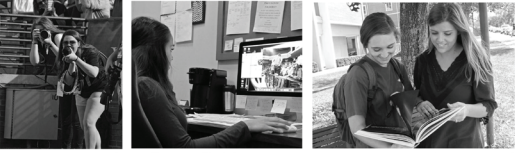
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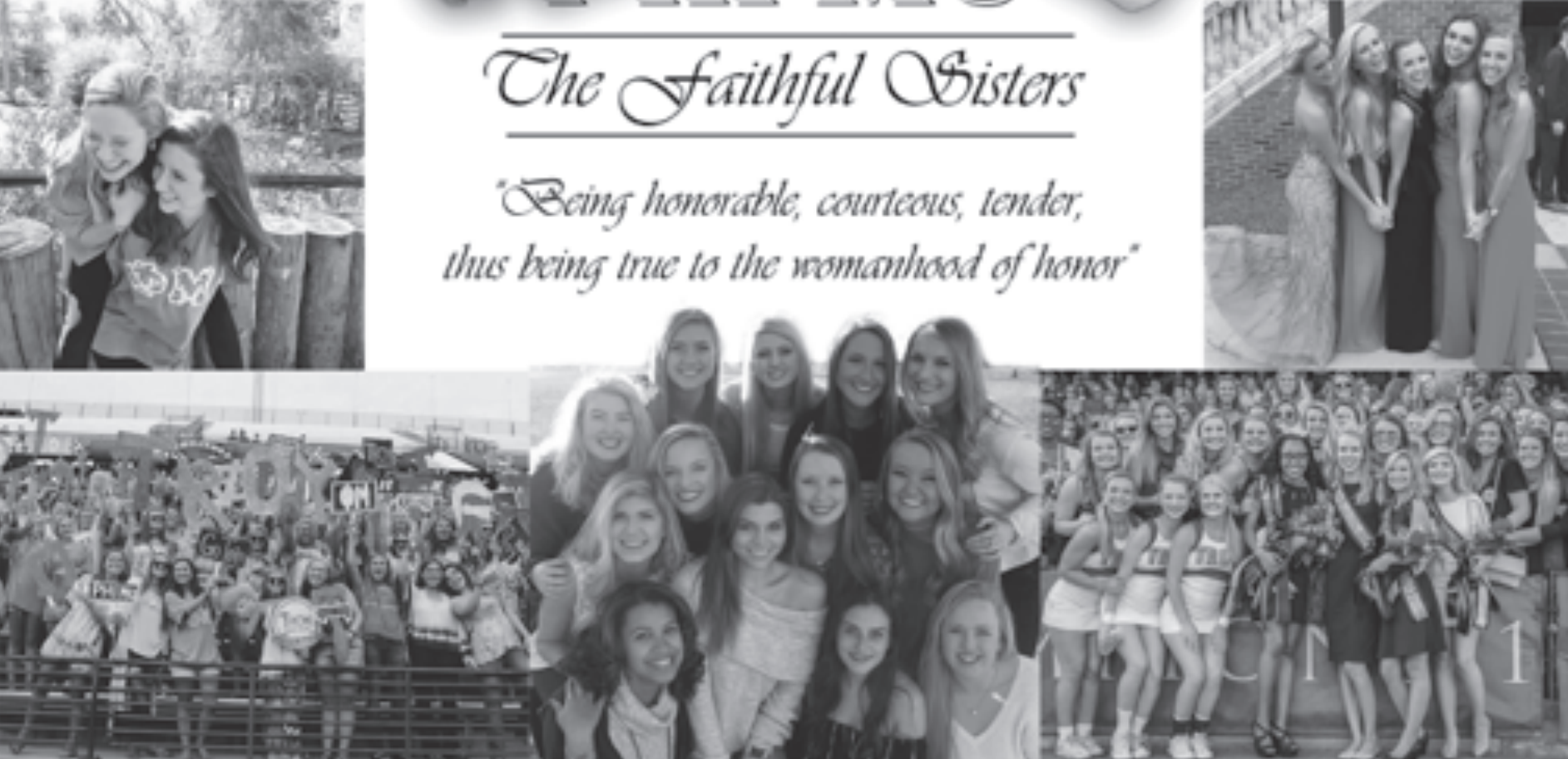
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Peeves

From Page 4

which, according to Nokes, is “someone for whom the apple is never shiny enough.”

On the first day, when he reviewed the syllabus for the class, the first-row student would raise her hand after every section to ask if there were additional assignments she could complete or books she could read for extra credit.

To this, Nokes responded, “No, there aren’t going to be any opportunities for extra credit in the class.”

After this student interrupted class at least 10 times to prompt the same response, Nokes said, “Right now, you have no regular credit in the class, so why don’t you just focus on seeing if you can get regular credit?”

“I didn’t think that was that harsh,” he said, “but she started crying. ... Apparently, it gave great joy to the other students.”

Nokes said there were many pet peeves he developed after specific incidents in his classroom.

“I have, on a couple of occasions, had students arrested out of the classroom,” Nokes said. “If you’re going to get arrested, do it on your own time.”

Nokes had one student who finished every sentence with “dawg.”

“After addressing me on several occasions as ‘Dawg,’ I insisted that he call me ‘Professor Dawg,’ which he did,” Nokes said.

John Kline, distinguished professor of leadership and director of the

Institute for Leadership Development, said procrastination is the most concerning negative student behavior.

“When students miss — don’t get their work done — they’re not getting the value that they deserve, and they’re, consequently, wasting their money and their parents’ money,” Kline said. “I’m concerned that students don’t jump right on assignments and work on them. Students that do, do so much better.”

Kline and Susan Sarapin, assistant professor of multimedia journalism and communication, worry that students graduating from high school lack a sense of accountability.

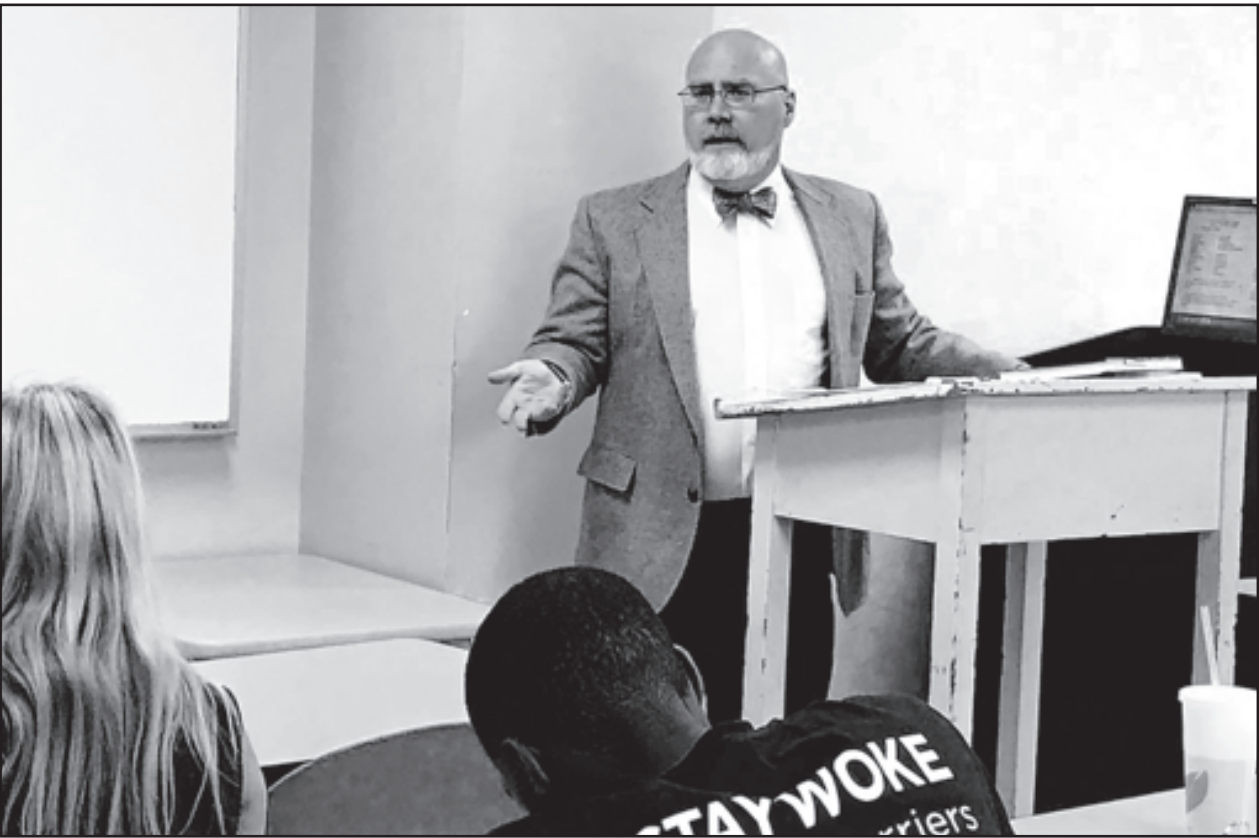
Sarapin recalled students returning to class from having been absent, asking: “Dr. Sarapin, I was absent on Thursday. Did we do anything?”

“You will always have missed something,” Sarapin said. “I don’t come and teach and not teach something, so the question is such an insult.”

While Sarapin said she reaches out to students who miss often, it is the student’s responsibility to make up the work and improve her grade.

“In the last week of the semester, I can’t tell you how many students write to me and tell me basically that this is the first time they’ve looked at their grade and they see that they’re getting a C or a D,” Sarapin said. “They ask: ‘What can I do to get an A? If I don’t get an A, I’m gonna lose my scholarship.’”

“It’s a tough world, but I can’t make sure you keep



Sable Riley photo
Richard Nokes, associate professor of English, lectures in front of his class, teaching the history of the English language.

your scholarship.”

Ken LaBrant, director of the university honors program, said he viewed pet peeves less as something that annoys him personally, and more as oddities.

Among his perplexities, he named students not attending class regularly.

“It’s like buying a pair of shoes and never wearing them and, as a matter of fact, throwing them away brand new,” he said. “That’s your money. It seems strange to me. I might be like, ‘That’s odd.’ Could you have not given those shoes, or that class, to another person? Maybe purchase credit for other people so they can attend?”

Bailey Sutton, a business major from Homewood who was a junior in the spring, said she has experienced an array of professor pet peeves.

“I once had a professor that would freak out if you wore a T-shirt with another university’s name on it,” Sutton said. “I think it’s pretty important to know what

pet peeves your professor has because they’re all so different, and some can be very particular.”

Sutton said in college,

your professor can make or break your experience in a class, and your GPA.

“It’s really up to the student to make a decision

about whether they are willing to put in effort to make a good impression.”

Sutton said. “I would definitely suggest it.”

ISCO

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Interested in learning about countries and promoting cultural diversity? Want to support Troy University's growing international community? Troy University's International Student Cultural Organization (ISCO) is open to all American and international students who want to learn, make friends, and become an integral part of campus life! Join us on Facebook at "Troy University ISCO" for updates on future meetings and events.

Chi Omega

@ChiOmegaTroy

"Sisters on Purpose"

What’s best organization for you?

Campus offers nearly 180 options — a chance to try something different

Lacey Alexander

With nearly 180 organizations on campus, it might seem easy to choose at least one to become an active part of.

The challenge for most students seems to be finding the specific organizations that make them feel at home.

The university has a multitude of religious, political, Greek, athletic and extracurricular groups, with membership numbers ranging from the handful of students in the film club to the hundreds of women in the Phi Mu sorority.

Learn about campus

The Student Government Association presides over and approves these groups. The SGA focuses on student life and how these groups can benefit the thousands of students at Troy.

“I would encourage freshmen to try new clubs that they may not have had in high school,” said Olivia Melton, 2016-17 president of the SGA.

“Getting involved is critical for freshmen so they can get acclimated with campus, and become heavily connected to the Trojan family.”

Melton, a senior in the spring

“Getting involved is critical for freshmen so they can get acclimated with campus, and become heavily connected to the Trojan family.”

— Olivia Melton,
SGA president, 2016-17

from Orange Beach who double-majored in mathematics and economics, said that finding the right group begins at IMPACT.

“During that time, freshmen are given various fliers, information, and have the opportunity to ask students about campus activities,” Melton said.

“And during welcome week, student organizations are on the quad to talk to freshmen about their clubs.”

Heath Barton, past president of the SGA, agrees with the importance of finding the right club or group.

“Finding your niche at Troy University goes deeper than just attending meetings and participating in events,” said Barton, an alumnus with a degree in risk management and insurance from Opp.

Make an impact

“It is discovering who you are and making an impact for the best on not only the individuals around you, but the organization and community that you serve in.”

Barton said he participated in religious, Greek and student government groups, and each of these groups gave him a different experience at Troy.

“I was able to truly find my



Payton Buchin photo

Some members of the Troy chapter of the Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society after new-member initiation in May 2016. Bottom row, left to right: senior theater major Stephanie Clinton, junior dance major Kenzie Haynes, junior dance major London Brison. Middle row, left to right: alumna (theater) Elisa Dewberry, senior theater major Meagan Evans, senior theater major Vincent Rossec. Top row, left to right: senior theater major Lacey Alexander, senior theater major Baine Ellis.

inner warrior spirit,” Barton said, “and encourage Troy and its student body to always strive towards excellence.”

According to troy.edu/greek, there are seven Interfraternity Council fraternities, five Panhellenic sororities, and 10 National Panhellenic Council fraternities on campus.

There are also Greek honor societies, such as Alpha Psi Omega for theater and dance students, and Sigma Alpha Iota for music students.

But Payton Buchin, president of Alpha Psi Omega, wants freshmen to know that Greek life is not the only way to be involved.

Sense of community

“I think some people think that if they don’t join a sorority or fraternity that they won’t find a sense of community anywhere else, and that’s not true,” said Buchin, a theater education major from Dothan who was a senior in the spring.

“I think Greek life can be fun

and fulfilling, but it’s not the only option.”

Buchin also said students should try venturing outside their majors.

“The theater department has open auditions every semester for people who want to be involved in their productions — and you don’t have to be a major to audition,” Buchin said.

“I think venturing outside of your major is important. I’m a theater education major, and I work with both the dance and music departments sometimes.”

For athletic students, the Intramural Sports Department offers options that include indoor soccer, basketball, flag football and swimming.

Ultimate Frisbee is also a popular sport on campus, with the Greek organizations holding a tournament every semester.

Finding information

Many groups can be found on Facebook, and most groups have presidents or faculty advisers who can answer questions.

If all else fails, Melton recommends asking someone for help.

“Students can come by TC (Trojan Center) 215 to the SGA to receive any information about the 180 organizations on campus,” Melton said.

“Freshmen should keep an eye out for fliers, emails, Facebook posts, and should ask older students about activities.”

The troy.edu website has a full list of organizations on campus.

Tickets

From Page 1

Haley Neal, who was a sophomore communication major from Seattle and member of the appeals committee in the spring, said that “it really helps if people bring in either pictures of where their car was parked or things like that, and also if they

bring in the ticket itself.”

After the appeal is submitted, the committee discusses it at the next meeting. The committee meets every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Student Government Association office, Trojan Center 215.

At the meeting, the members discuss the appeal and cross-reference the facts. For example, they look at the parking zone map, where and at what time the

violation took place, and what the violation was.

After hearing all arguments, the committee issues a ruling, usually at that meeting.

The best move for a student who is appealing is to come to the meeting, Patterson said.

“Usually when you come to us, we’re more receptive. You usually are able to get a more in-depth explanation as to why.”

Foor said she was happy with how everything was handled, even though it couldn’t be resolved at the meeting.

“It has to go a little bit further to the police chief due to the nature of the ticket, but it really did seem like there are students who are able to help,” Foor said.




The university police chief has the final say on all appeals. The committee’s decision is just

a suggestion to the chief.


“Unless the student just blatantly lies in their appeal’s explanation, we stick by whatever SGA rules,” police Chief John McCall said.

If all parties believe that the student’s ticket should be annulled, the voiding process will take about 10 days, according to McCall. Ultimately, Foor’s ticket was voided.


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After 10-3 football season, will team do even better this year?

Coach is inviting new students to ‘be a part of something special’

Alexander Collier

Troy University’s football team won 10 games last year, and head coach Neal Brown said that this year he wants the team to improve with the help of students and other fans.

The Trojans’ record was 10-3 for the 2016 season, Brown’s second year as coach. The team won the Dollar General Bowl.

“Our focus this year is improvement,” Brown said. “We are transitioning from a program that’s rebuilding.”

The motto “Rebuild the Wall” still applies, but the team has added another motto this year: “Run to The Roar.” Brown said it means “that this team has expectations.”

“You don’t cower down from tough workouts or big programs,” he said. “You face challenges head on.”

Al Pogue, defensive backs coach, described what he expects from summer workouts.

“We want guys to compete every day this summer,” he said. “Bettering yourself from the previous year is what builds programs.”

“If you don’t get better, it



Running back No. 38, Jordan Chunn, scores a touchdown against the University of Massachusetts on Nov. 5, 2016, in Veterans Memorial Stadium. The Trojans won 52-31.

Hannah Stone photo

“If you don’t get better, it shows in the record books.”

— Al Pogue, defensive backs coach

teams where guys can become immediate contributors.”

Brown said community leaders’ support of the university and its athletics has helped build fans’ interest. He said he hopes incoming students, as well as returning fans, will do tailgating and experience the games.

The fan base gave Troy the edge in some of its games by being the “12th man,” he said.

“Some of your best college experiences are tailgating and at football games. Come be a part

of something special.”

Attendance was 25,782 for the Nov. 12, 2016, game against Appalachian State. It was the fifth-largest crowd in Veterans Memorial Stadium history. The Trojans won 28-24.

“It was close all game,” said Myles Charley, a graduate student in business marketing from Birmingham. “Being at home and the fans being so loud really made the outcome.

“I’ve been at Troy going on six years. That was one of the most electrifying games I’ve seen at Troy, and it can only get better.”

The Trojans will play their season opener at Boise State in Idaho on Sept. 2. The first home game will be Sept. 9 against Alabama State.



Alexander Collier photo

No. 84, Robert Johnson, a junior business major from Hueytown, catches the ball during the Trojan Day game April 15, 2017.

In addition to football, men’s intercollegiate sports at Troy University include baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, tennis, and track and field. Women’s sports include basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

“Our focus this year is improvement. We are transitioning from a program that’s rebuilding.”

— Neal Brown, head football coach



Students make lifelong bonds on campus



Photos provided by Buddy Johnson and Mynecia Steele

Buddy Johnson, director of the university’s Broadcast and Digital Network, and Dr. Theresa M. Johnson, senior lecturer and director of development in the English department, on a recent wedding anniversary (left) and on their wedding day (middle). Courtney Batcher, an anthropology major from Arifon, and C. Nelson, a graphic design major from Pike Road, spending time together in the Trojan Center food court.

‘It’s nice just having someone to be there to talk to you about whatever you’re going through’

Mynecia Steele

It was Feb. 9, 1973, when Buddy Johnson, now director of Troy University’s Broadcast and Digital Network, and Dr. Theresa M. Johnson, senior lecturer and director of development in the English Department, had their first date.

They were students just starting on their career paths, but they weren’t the first or the last to build lifelong relationships with people they met in college.

Buddy Johnson was from Pensacola, Florida, and Theresa Mount was from Brantley. She saw him for the first time when she was a high schooler visiting Troy State University — the school’s name then. He was performing in the school’s musical production of “Camelot.”

His costume fit his character, she said.

“I said to my best friend, ‘That guy looks like the devil himself, but he has good-looking legs.’” Theresa Johnson remembered.

She never imagined that she would see him again. But after beginning her college career, she found herself interacting

with Buddy Johnson often. She would even catch him watching her sometimes.

“She was the prettiest girl I’d ever seen,” Buddy said.

The future couple were both a part of Troy’s Collegiate Singers.

One day, the group sang “Happy Birthday” to Buddy, and afterward, he asked, “Can I walk you to class?” Theresa said.

She corrected his grammar for using “can” instead of “may,” responding: “I don’t know. I’m not going to be late, and I’m not sure you can keep up with me.”

11 inches of snow

A few days later, it began to snow. There were about 11 inches of snow on the ground, and the university shut down at noon.

They walked out of class together, and he offered to carry her through the snow so that she wouldn’t ruin her boots, but they fell, said Theresa.

She added that he also offered to cook for their group of friends. So they all waited out the snow and endured his awful cooking at his apartment.

However, Buddy remembers the sequence of events a little differently.

“When you’re in a relationship, you think about the other person and how your decisions affect them.”

— Ashley Abrams

He argues that he did pick her up; they never fell, nor did he drop her. He also remembers the meal differently.

“It was a fabulous Italian meal,” Buddy said.

After that “day when hell froze over,” as she described it, the couple continued dating. They married on March 16, 1974.

Students tend to build lifelong bonds while in college, said Shelby Populus, a sophomore in the spring and a criminal justice major from Mobile.

She said some of her current relationships started in high school and have followed her to college, while others were formed by meeting new people in classes, at social events and through mutual friends.

Others agree that college is an opportunity to develop new relationships and strengthen

existing ones.

“When you’re in a relationship, you think about the other person and how your decisions affect them,” said Ashley Abrams, an education major from Montgomery who was a senior in the spring. “It’s nice having someone you can always go to and depend on.”

Relationships can also help students grow as individuals. Having people around whom you care about discourages selfish behaviors.

Not good to be alone

A romantic relationship provides the opportunity for people to share life events and can prepare students for the give-and-take of marriage, said Dusty Taylor, the student minister at Troy First United Methodist Church.

“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him,’ ” Taylor said, quoting Genesis 2:18.

Courtney Batcher, an anthropology major from Arifon, and C. Nelson, a graphic design major from Pike Road, have been dating for more than a year. Both were sophomores in the spring. They met at Spectrum

Alliance’s “Gayme Night.”

“At least for me, this relationship has been a real confidence booster,” Batcher said. “I feel much more confident than I did when I came to college.”

“If it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t have been able to come out to my parents,” Nelson said to Batcher.

Other couples see them holding hands and stop to ask whether they’re dating.

“It’s weird how you find out how many more queer people there are in the dorm, once you’re the other one,” Nelson said.

Populus described college as “a crazy time,” sometimes “tough,” when a student learns more about herself but also needs friends.

“It’s nice just having someone to be there to talk to you about whatever you’re going through because it’s not always about having people to go out with, but having someone to hang out with, and let them know that you’re there,” she said.

“Don’t lose yourself in your relationships. But I do think they are a good thing because if you have a healthy relationship, it can help you become a better person.”

Diverse cultures unite on campus

Sinclair Portis

When she arrived at Troy University, Jessica Edwards, like many other students, was afraid of what was to come.

“My freshman year, I was like ‘Oh, my goodness, I don’t know if I’m going to fit in here,’ ” said Edwards, a social work major from Tuscaloosa who was a junior and vice president of the NAACP in the spring.

“But honestly, as the years progressed, I love Troy. I’ve witnessed and made relationships with all types of people.”

Students fear meeting new people, not only because they are strangers, but because they are from all different walks of life.

Troy University’s organizations like Spectrum Alliance, International Student Cultural Organization, NAACP and many more groups involving politics, religion and cre-

ativity work to make the campus comfortable to every student.

Joe McCall, history senior lecturer and adviser for ISCO, experienced the diversity growth over the years and sees even more room for change.

“Every year we celebrate Dr. King’s life with a service at the chapel, and ... what I’ve seen change in the last 11 years is that the composition of the crowd at that gathering included white fraternity and sorority kids, African-American kids, international kids and plain old domestic American white kids,” McCall said.

He was referring to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Troy has many clubs that let students get to know one another and others like themselves.

“It’s great seeing multiethnic people from different countries in one university, and the good thing is everybody feels



Sinclair Portis photo

Multicultural students play poker during a game night in the Trojan Center on Feb. 7, 2017.

like one,” said Shreya Thumma, a computer science major from Hyderabad, India, who was a freshman in the spring.

ISCO works to bring culture from around the world to the students on campus. It holds events like Tea for Troy and

Country Night, where students describe their cultures for others to learn.

“As a girl from a small, rural town in the South, it has been so eye-opening and heartwarming to meet people from around the world,” said Shelby Wood, a social science education and Spanish

double major from Wewahatchka, Florida, who was a senior in the spring.

“Many of my closest friends are from places like Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Turkmenistan, South Korea, Guyana and Ghana.”

Another club that provides a safe space to get to know people is Spectrum Alliance. This club allows those of different sexualities and genders to come together and talk about their experiences and problems.

“Well, what’s the fun in everyone being the same?” said Carleigh Sherman, business major from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and president of Spectrum Alliance. Sherman was a sophomore in the spring.

The group practices making a safe environment for all members of the student body. The campus has four single-stall restrooms in Trojan Center that are gender-neutral.

“Dean Reeves goes through a lot,” Sherman said, referring to Dean of Student Services Herbert Reeves. “He works really hard, basically, to make sure that we do feel safe, and I think that’s really awesome. ... I know we can trust him if we have any problems.”

The NAACP, a civil rights group, volunteers around the community and campus and helps people of color succeed.

“I work at the admissions (office) and like giving tours,” said Jessica Edwards. “A lot of new students will come in and tour, and they’ll say: ‘Gosh, I see people talking to everyone. It’s like everyone’s talking to everybody.’ ”

“We have an incredibly diverse campus,” McCall said.

“...How many American kids are friends with Chinese kids, how many Korean kids are friends with kids from Denmark?”

International programs thrive and expand

Sarah Blain

The international community at Troy University has seen growth in programs and students, said Darlene Schmurr-Stewart, dean of international student services.

Her office deals with recruitment and admissions for international students and services to them, including academic advocacy and immigration issues.

The office helps students from the first weeks on campus — making sure they have the correct documentation, setting up bank accounts, finding housing and going grocery shopping.

“We basically become whatever it is they need through their home base while we are

constantly pushing them out into the community,” Schmurr-Stewart said.

Troy’s various exchange programs determine how long students spend on campus. For example, the 1-2-1 program is a dual-degree program where each student spends one year in his home country, two years at Troy University, and one year back in the home country.

Botian Yuan, a general business major from Shijiazhuang, China, who was a senior in the spring, spent one year at a Chinese college and has been a student on Troy’s main campus for three years.

Yuan said one of the hard things at first was the English language.

“We learn English in China, but it is basic things,” Yuan said.



Sarah Blain photo

Timilehin Osituyo (left), a graduate student studying international relations from Ogun State, Nigeria, gets advice about school from Darlene Schmurr-Stewart, dean of international student services.

“Different people have different accents. Some talk slow, and some talk fast. I cannot catch up.”

Yuan has visited New York

and Los Angeles, but he has found people the South to be friendlier.

“When I walk on the campus, people greet me,” he said. He

plans to continue school and receive a master’s degree at a different school in America.

“After I graduate, I think I will miss Troy and my American friends and family,” Yuan said.

There are six campus organizations focused on international students: Chinese Student and Scholars Association (CSSA), Indian Student Association (ISA), Nepal Student Association (NSA), Saudi Student Association (SSA), Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) and International Student Cultural Organization (ISCO).

Joe McCall, senior history lecturer and faculty adviser for ISCO, said ISCO was started about 26 years ago by international students to foster

See **International**, Page 12

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UAC organizes social events for students

Movies, outdoor activities, other occasions to relax, make friends

Josiah Askew

Many students arrive at Troy University not knowing anyone, but campus events allow them to congregate in healthy social settings where they can make friends — settings provided through the University Activities Council.

“It is an opportunity for students to meet in a fun environment,” said Audrey Carpenter, the UAC public relations chair and a social work major from Dothan who was a sophomore in the spring.

“The majority of our events are free, excluding dollar movie night,” Carpenter said. “This is done to maximize involvement from the students who are on a budget.”

On the first Wednesday of every month, the UAC partners with Continental Cinema 5, the local movie theater, allowing students with university IDs access to watch movies for only \$1.

(Late in spring semester, an increase in the price — perhaps to \$2 — was being considered.)

The university provides shuttles to all sponsored events that are off campus.

Laser tag, skate night and casino night are other events sponsored by the UAC.

“I really enjoyed skate night,” said Kendra Rhodes, an information systems major from Augusta, Georgia, who

was a senior in the spring. “It was a lot of people falling, but I know how to skate.”

“I like casino night,” said Ariana Han, an advertising major from Tianjin, China, who was a junior in the spring. “It teaches you how to make money.”

Han did not win her game but was not upset because the game is played using fake money.

The UAC also offers a field trip once a semester to Butter and Egg Adventures, an outdoor aerial theme park near campus.

“We take groups of students to the park once a semester for fun,” Carpenter said. “It is a really big hit with international students.”

Butter and Egg Adventures offers zip lines, a 7-acre lake for boating, fishing and a water slide.

Other ground-based recreation includes laser combat on a battlefield, human foosball, mini-golf, archery and ropes for children.

“I was scared to zip-line, so I just played laser tag,” said Angel Amerson, a mathematics major from Birmingham who was a freshman in the spring.

“The park is really safe,” said Susan Pierce, a retired Troy University student services employee and owner of Butter and Egg Adventures. “We’ve had no serious injuries since we opened.”

Troy University students who attend IMPACT,



Audrey Carpenter (left), University Activities Council public relations chair, and Dekorrius Johnson, dollar night movie coordinator, working in the Trojan Center.

which is the university’s orientation, also experience the camp.

“When students arrive on campus, they are bombarded with learning how the school operates,” Carpenter said.

“Getting their classes, making sure dorms are arranged, financial aid, and not to mention learning a new campus can be overwhelming, so the university provides the trip to students as a way for them to have fun, relax and establish connections.”

The UAC meets every Monday at 5 p.m. in Room 212 of the Trojan Center.

“Come out to the meeting to stay up to date with campus events,” Carpenter said. “And joining is really easy. The more meetings you attend, the closer you are to being a part of the UAC team.”

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Freshman 15? Not using this meal plan

Alex Collier

She was like many high school athletes who didn't receive college scholarships to play sports. Her early-morning workouts turned into sleeping in on her day off from classes. Her diet didn't handle her lifestyle.

"And then — it happened," said Marie Lopez, an exercise science major from Birmingham who was a senior in the spring. "I became a part of the most hated topic, the infamous freshman 15."

She wanted to take a more hands-on approach with her exercise science major, so she started with herself and was successful in losing weight.

"I've lost over 50 pounds since coming to Troy in 2012," Lopez said.

Eric Dunn, an instructor at CrossFit Ilium and Troy University alumnus, said when you get to college, you don't have a parent telling you what to eat.

"In high school, you have your parents as a guiding light, telling you 'Don't eat this' and 'Don't eat that,'" Dunn said. "Yet when you have a buffet-style café, it's hard not to gorge yourself on things you're not supposed to."

Troy University requires all on-campus residents to purchase a meal plan. These meal plans come in the forms of flex points, for retail locations on campus, and meals in Trojan Dining.

Trojan Dining, Troy University's dining hall, is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Boar's Head Deli and Moe's Southwest Grill, which close at midnight, are both located in the dining hall building.

The Trojan Center Food Court which is open from breakfast to dinner, includes a coffee and bagel store, a sandwich place, a Chinese restaurant, and Chick-fil-A.

But all dining options can be purchased using cash or card as well.

"As a freshman, you become overwhelmed with school, and adjusting to a new atmosphere, many take to food as comfort," Dunn said.

Brandon Binford, a computer science major from Huntsville who was

a sophomore in the spring, said that in high school he was consumed with sports, but the minute he came to college, he gained 30 pounds.

"It was an eye-opening experience for me," Binford said. "College became so stressful and time-consuming that the freshman 15 became the freshman 35 for me."

"As a freshman, you see the pizza and fries every day and forget that they have healthier options that you can eat from, too."

Michael Wonderly, director of operations for Troy Dining Services, said the dining hall offers healthy options for the students to choose from.

"Much of the weight gain students face is when

"The freshman 15 became the freshman 35 for me."

— Brandon Binford

they come from high school and have limited options and are so used to consuming those options that they don't broaden their horizon," Wonderly said.

Wonderly said the dining hall offers healthier alternatives for students.

"We offer Magellan, which is stir-fry; we have



Justin Blowers photo

Lydia Gilmer, an English major from Chelsea who was a freshman in the spring, getting a salad from The Wild Mushroom, the salad bar in Trojan Dining.

a salad bar where they can grill chicken in front of you."

Wonderly said that Troy offers a dining hall app called Bite by Sodexo for smartphones, in which students can see the daily menu and the calorie intake for each meal.

"We do everything in our power to help the students make great choices, but we can't make them eat the choices we provide for them," Wonderly said.

To see dining hall menus, visit troydining.com.

International

From page 10

relationships and connections between international students and domestic students.

"The goal now with ISCO is to serve as an umbrella organization to all the different nationalities on campus," McCall said, "and try to bring those people together with our domestic students."

McCall said ISCO is not just for international students, but also for domestic students.

In the last five years, ISCO has seen a growth of attendees at its meetings. At the beginning of fall semester 2016, there were 100 to 150 students, according to McCall.

McCall explained that during ISCO nights, students present different cultures on any given topic, including descriptions of customs, dress, food, contemporary cultures and history.

"I used to want to change the world big," McCall said. "Not anymore. I just want to change a little corner, and ISCO is a sweet little corner of the world of people getting to know each other."

Shelby Wood, a Spanish and social science education double major from Wewahitchka, Florida, who was a senior in the spring, served as ISCO's president beginning in April 2016.

Wood said it was a pleasant experience because ISCO is a great organization that has been influential on the Troy University campus, bridging the gap between domestic and international students.

"I have met so many amazing people and made so many great friends from countries around the world," Wood said. "I have also had the opportunity to improve my leadership, teamwork and communication skills."

Troy University welcomes a new sorority: AOPi

Hannah Stone

The Troy University Greek system will expand in the fall of 2017 when Alpha Omicron Pi joins the five existing Panhellenic sororities.

A new sorority was needed because of growth in the Greek system.

The new sorority was chosen through a three-year process.

Representatives of three sororities visited the campus and presented what they could offer Troy. A committee of student sorority women made the difficult

decision, according to Barbara Patterson, director of student involvement.

"I think AOPi will be a great addition to the Troy University Panhellenic community because they have such a strong alumni and financial support as well as a commitment from their national headquarters," said Emma Turner, an exercise science major from Huntsville and a sophomore in the spring.

She attended the competing sorority presentations.

AOPi will participate in the first round of sorority recruitment

in fall 2017. After the first round, which is the philanthropy days, the sorority will drop out of recruitment week, Patterson said.

AOPi's recruitment will continue three to four weeks after classes begin. Women from the AOPi national office will be on campus, attending events.

Women from the national office, along with national officers, will then interview the women whom they consider prospective members during their last week at Troy.

They will make a selection of the first women and have a bid day for the new members.

A meeting place for the new sorority has not been determined. Patterson said she hopes all sororities will receive new houses within one year of AOPi's arrival.

The new sorority will bring new traditions, a new philanthropy and numerous leadership opportunities, according to Patterson.

It will present "an opportunity for lots of women to immediately take on leadership roles within their chapter," Patterson said — "because they are going to pledge, and all of a sudden they are going to become the president, and the new member educator and the treasurer."

University’s history goes back to 1887

Main campus has 6 colleges, schools; services support student life, academics

Sarah Blain

Troy University turned 130 years old on Feb. 24, 2017, and one of its current slogans echoes the founding charter: “educate the mind to think, the heart to feel, and the body to act.”

The Alabama Legislature established Troy State Normal School in February 1887. The State Board of Education changed the school’s name in 1929 to Troy State Teachers College after the school started to grow.

After the college was granted power to award baccalaureate and master’s degree programs, the college was renamed Troy State University on Dec. 14, 1967.

The board of trustees renamed the university without “State” included in the title, and it became Troy University in August 2005. The renaming of the school united all campuses and sites, such as those in Montgomery, Dothan and Phenix City.

Troy has accredited associate, baccalaureate, master’s, education specialist and doctoral degree programs.

The colleges and schools on the home campus in Troy, Alabama, include College of Arts and Sciences, Sorrell College of Business, College of Communication and Fine Arts, College of Education, College of Health and Human Services, and Graduate School.

Collectively in 2016, the university had an enrollment of 18,393. This includes all campuses worldwide and online, and it is approximately 9 percent higher than 2015’s enrollment, according to Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness. Since 1966, Troy has offered degree programs in many locations in the United States and the world.

As of fall 2015, Troy through its history had graduated about 148,864 students — residents of all 50 United States and at least 50 countries.

According to Loretta Clark, an administrative assistant in the Office of Alumni Affairs, in 2016 the alumni mostly came from Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

There were 1,749 alumni from other countries in 2016, who mainly hailed from Vietnam, China and United Arab

Emirates.

Incoming students are encouraged to “test the waters” when it comes to getting involved with Troy’s many clubs and organizations, according to the dean of student services, Herbert Reeves.

Reeves said student involvement on campus caters to all types of students and is growing every year.

Reeves works with the Student Services office, which provides services ranging from housing to recreational and sports organizations.

Reeves said any student can come to the Student Services office to see what services are available and learn policies and procedures.

“They joined the Troy family,” Reeves said. “If they are having issues — whether it is personal issues or academic issues, I don’t know — we can’t always solve them, but we at least try to help them.”

The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership is associated with Greek life, Freshman Forum, Leadership Scholars, Who’s Who, Welcome Week, voter registration, traffic appeals and traditional events on campus.

Troy Online has 19 degree programs for undergraduates and 23 for graduate students. Many on-campus students take online courses to help meet their degree requirements.

On Jan. 10, U.S. News and World Report released a ranking of its “2017 Best Online Programs,” which recognized Troy for its bachelor’s program as well as its Master of Business Administration and other graduate programs in non-MBA business courses, education and criminal justice.

“The most rewarding aspect of completing a class online or a full academic program online is the skill set that is developed by the students to not only learn the academic material but to master the ability to prioritize and persist,” said Ronnie Creel, senior director and dean of Troy Online student services.

Trojan Café (trojancafe.com) is a product of Troy Online that was established in August 2014.

Amanda Smothers, the assistant



Jeff Herring photo

A couple of Troy students show their love for the university at the fountain and statue on the main quad.

director of student engagement for Trojan Café, explained that before the website was established, there were issues connecting online students to the university.

“We also were not providing much guidance on how to do well in the online education environment, nor were we providing support toward career opportunities,” Smothers said.

A small group of Troy Online staff members proposed an online student success center that originally was to aid online students, but included information that both in-class and online students

could benefit from.

“We saw that there were holes in our connective tissue and student support systems, and we knew we could do better,” Smothers said.

The center publishes articles written by students, faculty, staff and contributors that range from online career exploration to drafting the perfect resume.

“We love, love, love publishing something inspirational from or about Troy students or faculty,” Smothers said. “We love to spotlight students, faculty and staff in a variety of ways.”



Alpha Epsilon Delta

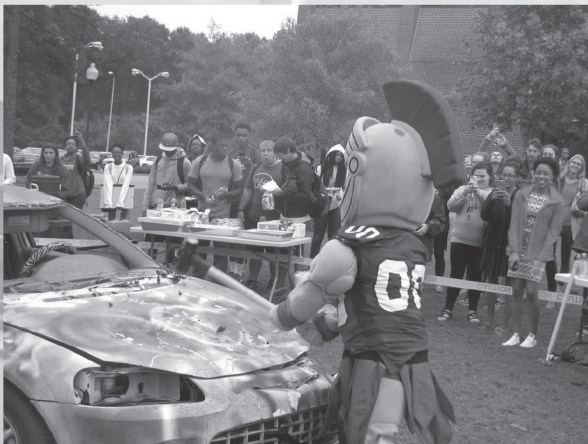
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More than one way to get to class

Justin Blowers

Living off Troy University’s main campus comes with challenges.

One of these is getting to class. Some students do not drive cars.

Alternative forms of transportation help students who don’t have cars or those who do not want the hassle of finding parking. However, each alternative form has pros and cons.

Jamillah Bell, a music major from Montgomery who was a sophomore in the spring, walked out of class to the filled bicycle rack to retrieve her bike.

Bell said that she would recommend riding a bike over driving even though the campus isn’t “bike-friendly.”

“Biking keeps me fitter and gets me to class faster than driving,” Bell said. “I have thighs and buns of steel now.”

But Bell said that common problems with biking are congested sidewalks, not enough bike racks and rainy days. She did add that not having to look for parking and the reliable travel time make up for the problems of biking, in her opinion.

She said she prefers riding a bike over taking the shuttle bus because she can leave whenever she wants if she bikes, and biking, in her opinion, is more reliable than the shuttle.

“Mostly it’s fine — you know—until it’s not,” Bell said.

Brigham Schellinger, a political science major from Mobile who was a senior in the spring, rested in Trojan Center for a few minutes before class after his 15-minute walk to school.

Schellinger said he has never had a problem walking to college.



Justin Blowers photo

Jamillah Bell, a music major from Montgomery who was a sophomore in the spring, unlocking her bike in front of Patterson Hall after getting out of class.

“I’ve had a lot more problems with driving, to be honest,” he said. “Paying \$75 for not having a guaranteed parking spot is very frustrating. On top of that, you feel good walking; it helps you wake up.”

Schellinger said that the only big problem with walking is when it rains. And he would not recommend walking to campus from any place farther than a mile and a half. “You can do that in 20 minutes, and after a while carrying those books and stuff gets old,” he said.

“Biking keeps me fitter and gets me to class faster than driving.”

— Jamillah Bell

group, makes walking easier.

“It’s just relaxing,” he said. “It saves money, too, in multiple ways.”

Morgan Hillman, a mathematics major from Geneva who was a senior in the spring, ran to class after being dropped off by the Troy University shuttle.

Hillman said he likes taking the transit system because it always shows up. However, he said that the shuttles do not show up at the same times every day.

“Sometimes it will show up late, and I’ll be late for class,” he said.

Hillman said taking the shuttles saves gas money and means he does not have to look for parking.

He said you need to plan ahead if you use the transit system.

“It’s not good if you say, ‘Hey, I have a class in 30 minutes and need to get on out there,’” Hillman said.

Derrick Brewster, assistant dean of student services and head of transportation services, said the transit system consists of five routes with shuttles coming about every five minutes.

He recommended downloading the TransLoc Rider app so that you will know when a bus is coming.

This app, for Android phones and iPhones, tracks the shuttles and provides real-time updates.

Brewster said TransLoc is now available, allowing a student to request a ride from campus to home and vice versa from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

“If you’re really looking for a safe ride, you can request to be picked up from the library and taken to the dorm if you don’t want to walk in the dark,” Brewster added.

Mistakes

From page 1

Olivia Melton, Student Government Association president for 2016-17, said she sees a big difference in the students who are involved on campus and those who are not.

“Freshman year is a time to build up a good reputation because it will follow you throughout your years at Troy,” Melton said.

Melton was an IMPACT leader, Freshman Forum director and Chi Omega sister, among other activities beginning in her freshman year.

Many opportunities

Melton encourages freshmen to get involved in any way they can, whether that is attending the football games, becoming a Conversation Partner with an international student, attending the Baptist Campus Ministry, or going Greek. She said these things can help students make friends and gain valuable experiences.

“A lot of people will meet their friend group freshman year and just stay there,” Melton said. “Expand and meet as many people as possible through the different organizations on campus because freshman year is when you will have the most time for it, and you might gain friends you’ll keep for life.”

Melton said she was so busy getting involved and engaging with campus activities that she didn’t spend enough time with friends.

“Don’t miss the late-night movie nights,” Melton said. “Go to Sonic at 2 a.m., go on random road trips — that is what freshman year is about.”

Dr. Hal Fulmer, dean of first-year studies, said it is most important for freshmen to start immediately living the “Trojan Way” and learning success skills.

“Your Trojan family extends quite literally all around the world,” Fulmer said. “Taking advantage of everything Troy University offers is part of the Trojan Way.”

Fulmer said there are many ways to get engaged beyond just Greek life, such as being a Conversation Partner, helping hungry children in the community, supporting sustainability projects around town such as gardening and recycling, and taking on social issues like anti-bullying.

Office of Civic Engagement

Fulmer advised students to inquire with the Office of Civic Engagement, in Eldridge Hall 122, for more information on how to get involved on campus.

“A student who is involved is a successful student, almost always,” Fulmer said. “Being involved helps you be successful in the classroom and beyond.”

He said students should go beyond hanging out with the students they know from their hometowns.

“Going home on the weekends is fine, but it isn’t expanding your circle and making most of the university,” Fulmer said. “Universities are where people meet lifetime friends.”

Kristin Lange, a nursing major from Gardendale who was a senior in the spring, said random roommates could turn into great friendships, though she did not experience that herself.

“I regret not fully appreciating freshman year because now I’m in nursing school, and all I do is study,” Lange said. “Enjoy the friends you make as a freshman. Then go out on the weekends and make more. You will look back on your freshman year and realize that it was the most free you’ve ever been.”

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The march toward 10,000

University is upgrading parking, dining, housing, academics to prepare for 2020 enrollment goal

Tori Bedsole

According to administrators, upgrades and additions will need to be made to the Troy campus in areas such as dining, housing, parking, staffing and academics to accommodate an increase in enrollment.

Chancellor Jack Hawkins and the Troy University Board of Trustees drafted and passed a proposal with the goal “to have the capacity to serve 10,000 students by fall 2020.”

As of fall 2016, the Troy campus enrolled 7,864 students.

“Consistent growth puts us in a position to be a strong institution,” said Herbert Reeves, dean of student services. “With the growth that we’ve seen since I’ve been here, we really have become a worldwide, international university.”

Not all at once

Although the administration envisions this increase, it knows the growth must be steady over many years rather than all at once.

“Growth must be envisioned as a stair-step process requiring annual absorption of an increasing student population,” the document states. “Excessive growth in any one year will create difficulties in providing high quality service to students.

“Enrollment growth will optimize the use of existing classrooms and campus resources and will enhance student participation in honors programs, campus organizations, and attendance at intercollegiate athletic events.”

“Many investments necessary for enrollment growth will pay for themselves through fees, such as recreation fees, lab fees,



Morgan Bailey (left), a Chick-fil-A employee in the Trojan Center, serves Virenderjit Singh, a computer information systems graduate student from Ludhiana, India, his meal in the spring. Chick-fil-A will be expanded from limited service to full service.

Nilotpal Mukherjee photo

parking fees, and housing fees,” the document states.

Additions to dining services include a revamping of the Trojan Center dining options by fall 2017.

Marketplace will be removed, Chick-fil-A will become a full-service operation, A&W will be replaced with a Steak ‘n Shake (which serves steakburgers and milkshakes), and the old game room will be transformed into a Marble Slab ice cream creamery with additional seating, according to Reeves and other administrators.

“It (growth) allows you to expand the offerings and programs that you have,” Reeves said. “I think it increases the support for athletics, arts and other activities on campus.”

Parking is a concern for many students. Blain

Wakefield, a political science major from Wilsonville who was a senior in the spring, said an increase in students would make parking worse.

“Parking is already terrible, with more parking decals sold than spots available, and the spots that are not used are far away, which is inconvenient because that means a 15-minute walk,” Wakefield said. “With 10,000 students, that means we would need to double our parking spots.”

New parking lot

John Dew, senior vice chancellor of student services, said the university planned to have a new parking lot completed by May or June 2017 that would include 600 parking spaces. The parking location is between the Trojan Center and the track, where a ravine was

to be filled in.

Enrollment increases will also lead to expanded activity and organization offerings on campus, according to Dew.

“We are going to add one more sorority (Alpha Omicron Pi), which will begin recruitment after regular recruitment in the fall,” Dew said.

Dew also discussed the importance of revamping the student health center.

“We are going to make a few changes by August of this year, but it may take us a year or two for all of it,” Dew said.

“We have entered into some discussions with some of the hospitals in the area and with SARHA (Southeast Alabama Rural Health Associates) and are exploring two or three different options of what we can do to handle the capacity of students at the

student health center.

“That’s high on the list.”

The university also has plans to complete a new residence hall by August 2018. Currently, the university has the capacity to house only 2,348 students.

“Three locations are under current consideration for a new residence hall,” the document states.

According to Dew, one of the prospective dormitory locations is between the track and the new parking lot.

No monster classes

Academically, the university has “the room to push out,” according to Hal Fulmer, associate provost and dean of first-year studies, especially with the availability of online classes.

“We are committed to not having monster class sizes,” Fulmer said. “We have classrooms that we can tap into.”

According to Dew and Fulmer, “managed growth” will bring the opportunity for new programs.

“We are already doing some interesting things right now,” Fulmer said. “We have begun to develop some bridge programs so that some of our really good students, in that last semester if they are interested in graduate school, they can take graduate courses for an advanced master’s degree.”

According to Fulmer, the university has enough classrooms to accommodate an increase in students, but needs to stretch the day, adding class times at 3 p.m. or 4 p.m.

Andrew Dearing, a criminal justice major from Montgomery and the previous Student Government Association vice president of legislative affairs, said there are benefits and challenges to consider with the university’s goal.

“I want to see Troy grow and have an even more extended Trojan family,” said Dearing, who was a junior in the spring. “But the university must make accommodations for the students already here.

Raising standards

“In order to advance, we must increase tuition. And when this happens, our standards for admission rise as well.

“Since I’ve been here, they have raised admission and scholarship requirements, and we should expect to see this again if the student population keeps rising at the rate it is, which isn’t necessarily a bad thing.

“Troy is just raising their standards—which, long-term speaking, is a good thing. Short-term, it can be inconvenient for current students.”

TROY UNIVERSITY

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FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

Fall 2017

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IFC Fraternity Recruitment

Dates: May 1st - August 15th, 2017
IMPACT Interest Sessions:
June 19- July 20, 2017
Formal recruitment will begin during the Fall semester



NPC Sorority Recruitment

Dates: August 7th-12th, 2017
Online Registration is now open!
<http://troy.edu/greek/sororitylife/>

NPHC Convocation

The National Pan-Hellenic Council’s recruitment process, known as Intake, begins with the 2017 Convocation. This is an interactive open forum in which all organizational members of the NPHC council are present to answer questions and present their organizations. Business attire is required for Convocation.

Contact Information:

For more information about Fraternity & Sorority life and about recruitment or convocation, please visit our website at trojan.troy.edu/organizations/greek/index.html

Fraternity & Sorority Life is located in the Office of Student involvement and Leadership, Trojan Center room 215.

NPHC Fraternities:

Alpha Phi Alpha
Kappa Alpha Psi
Omega Psi Phi
Iota Phi Theta

IFC Fraternities:

Alpha Tau Omega
Delta Kappa Epsilon
Delta Chi
Farm House
Lambda Chi Alpha
Pi Kappa Phi
Sigma Chi
Tau Kappa Epsilon

NPC Sororities:

Alpha Gamma Delta
Alpha Omicron Pi
Alpha Delta Pi
Chi Omega
Kappa Delta
Phi Mu

NPHC Sororities:

Alpha Kappa Alpha
Sigma Gamma Rho

Military students juggle their duties

ROTC cadets, reservists must also find time for class, other campus activities

Nathaniel Rodriguez

For Cadet 1st Sgt. Ashli Morris, being a part of the Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at Troy University is both rewarding and a challenge.

Morris, who was a junior international politics major from Athens in the spring 2017 semester, had to manage being a regular student alongside fulfilling her responsibilities as a first sergeant, which included facilitating communication from her superiors to other cadets.

“The description of my role is making sure that every cadet involved in the program knows where they need to be, what they need to wear and what equipment they need to have when they’re there,” she said.

This, coupled with her involvement on campus, consumes time.

SGA president

She was, after all, elected in the spring as the 2017-18 president of the Student Government Association.

But Morris said the most difficult part of the ROTC program is the physical training in the morning, which can make the days long and tiring.

“Fortunately for me, I did come into the program as a freshman, so I’ve had plenty of time to adjust and kind of figure out a good balance as to how I need to manage my time during the day so that I can get sleep at night,” she said.

“For some cadets who come in their sophomore or junior year and are already in their major classes, that is a very tough adjustment.”

However, cadets are not the only military students who face challenges. For students like Brandon Grantham of Brantley who are in the reserves, being in the military is also a job.

Grantham, who was a junior athletic training major during the spring of 2017, is a member of the Navy Federal Reserves, which requires him to go to a



Chase Ingram & Nathaniel Rodriguez photos

At left, Cadet 1st Sgt. Ashli Morris learns about a Chinook helicopter during an Army ROTC visit to Fort Rucker in February 2017. Above, Air Force ROTC Cadet Mason Dubose fixes fellow Cadet Casey Brumblow’s uniform during inspection.

“It was on a Friday, and (a class assignment) was supposed to be due on Sunday night. But for me, I had drill that Friday. I didn’t get back until Sunday night ...”

— Reservist Brandon Grantham

naval base in Florida to work as a construction mechanic for two weeks out of the year and to participate in monthly drills.

These two-day drills force Grantham to work around his college schedule, although there are times when his job on base conflicts with his course assignments.

Drill vs. homework

“A couple weeks ago, one of my professors gave like an on-line-type thing to do over the weekend,” Grantham said.

“It was on a Friday, and it was supposed to be due on Sunday night. But for me, I had drill that Friday.

“I didn’t get back until Sunday night, so there really wasn’t any

time for me to do it.”

Despite these challenges, there is support for military on campus.

For example, Grantham said in cases like his, extensions can be given so long as there is proof that the student was on active duty at the time.

Meanwhile, ROTC students who are gone for training events receive excuses for their classes, although Morris said teachers are not always as sympathetic to ROTC students as they are to students who are in the reserves.

“For many of those people in reserves, they are actively serving right now, and for us, we just look like college students,” Morris said.

“I think teachers view ROTC cadets as an in-between from maybe someone who is a student athlete ... and a little bit more than a student who, let’s just say, is involved in a couple organizations on campus.”

As for social engagement and resource accessibility, the Troy for Troops Center provides a computer lab and lounge that military students can use freely. It’s located inside the Trojan Center.

Lounge, computer lab

“In addition to our student lounge and computer lab, we offer two student organizations — Students Veterans Association and SALUTE (a nationally recognized honor society) — a

Veterans’ Alumni Association, a veteran success on campus counselor and visiting Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) counseling services,” said Capt. Danielle Pankey, director of the Troy for Troops Center.

“We also liaison with all campus departments and have teamed with the Career Services department to offer resume writing and interview skills workshops.”

Financial aid is provided to both reserve students and ROTC cadets who qualify, but Morris said that’s not why she is going into military life.

“For me, I would say it’s a lot more of being able to serve others,” she said.

TROY UNIVERSITY'S

FRESHMAN FORUM

THE FRESHMAN BRANCH OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT



- Paris Fountain & Michael Ingram -

What is Freshman Forum?

Freshman Forum is the freshman branch of the Student Government Association. It is a stepping stone from high school Student Government to SGA at the collegiate level. Freshman Forum is one of the most prestigious groups on campus. Fifty freshmen are chosen through an interview and application process and later placed into one of five committees: Campus Involvement, Community Service, Trojan Pride & Traditions, Student Welfare, and Public Relations & Marketing. With weekly meetings every Tuesday at 5:30pm, members learn how to run meetings using parliamentary procedure, have their voices heard on campus and give back to the TROY community in the same manner as SGA. As a member of Freshman Forum, you will develop leadership skills, gain experience networking, and make friends who will last throughout your entire TROY experience!



2016-2017 Delegates

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