

A lasting impact

Master's degree program in school counseling opens new avenues for TROY alum to reach students

By Inga Oberst

Calvin Bell-Tharpe entered the teaching profession because he wanted to make a difference in the lives of children. The Northview High School (Dothan, AL) art instructor quickly discovered there was another way he could make a lasting impact.

"My undergraduate degree is in art education," Bell-Tharpe said, "and I realized after one year of teaching I was doing a lot of counseling with my students, instead of instructing."

Now, the 25-year-old is working toward a Master of Science in School Counseling at Troy University.

The program consists of a 48-credit hour curriculum designed for those who already hold teacher certification. Courses cover topics ranging from interventions for children and adolescents to program management and facilitation techniques.

For those seeking a higher level of certification, a 36-credit hour Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in School Psychology is also available at the Dothan Campus. Master's level certification in School Psychometry is required for program entry, and coursework covers everything from counseling diverse populations to vocational psychology and behavior pathology.

Dr. Virginia Mayer, Troy University assistant professor, says students in each of the programs learn to identify, assess and manage mental, social and emotional issues. Mayer recommends the programs to anyone interested in a career helping children.

"The needs are out there," Mayer said, "They are growing. I think it is an excellent way to

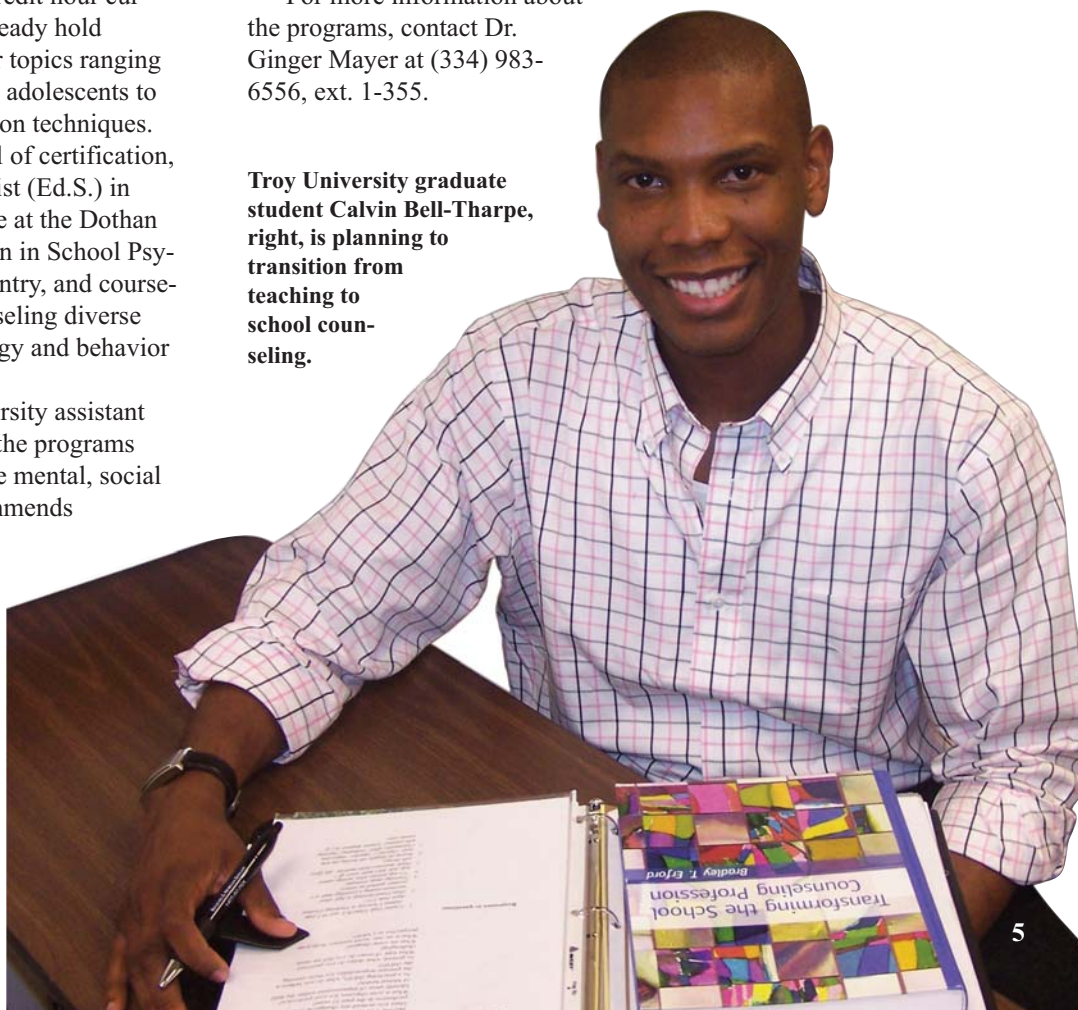
respond to the community."

Once he completes his graduate degree, Bell-Tharpe hopes to help students work through their problems full-time. He would also like to open an art therapy practice in the future.

"I believe there are too many children that come into the classroom with bad family issues," said Bell-Tharpe. "They don't have the stability at home, and, by coming to the classroom setting, they have that structure and feel comfortable discussing their feelings."

For more information about the programs, contact Dr. Ginger Mayer at (334) 983-6556, ext. 1-355.

Troy University graduate student Calvin Bell-Tharpe, right, is planning to transition from teaching to school counseling.



Oberst is a university relations coordinator.

University's growth evident in ongoing construction projects

Construction is well under way on a new 524-bed student housing complex on the Troy Campus.

University officials broke ground on the new complex in August, and progress on the new facility, which is scheduled to be completed before the start of the fall 2007 semester, is evident to visitors to the campus.

In partnership between the University and the Troy University Foundation, the complex will be located adjacent to Clements Hall on nearly six acres of land and will consist of four four-story residence halls.

"This construction reflects the continued growth Troy University has seen in recent years," said Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. "For the past several years, we have reached or exceeded our capacity to provide on-campus student housing. This new facility will provide not only top-quality residences but also enhances our ability to better serve our students."

The residence halls form a student housing village designed to be an integrated living and learning community to promote academics and student social interaction. A multi-purpose room with an attached kitchen, a convenience store, laundry facilities, a game room and a fitness center are among the items included in the complex. Music rooms and a computer lab are also incorporated into the design.

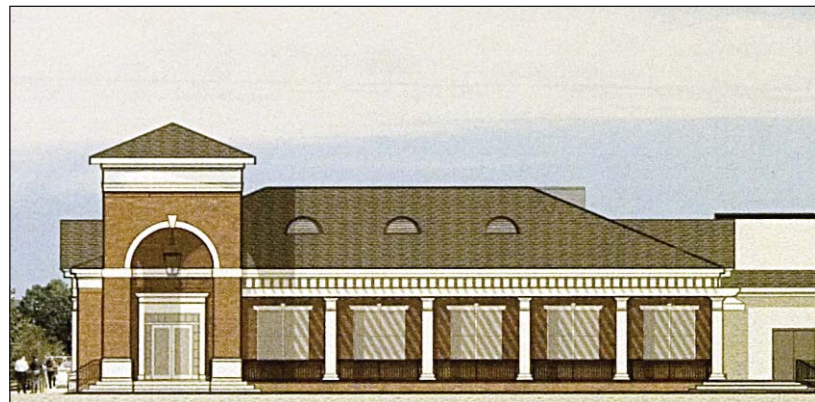
"At TROY, we want our students to have the very best college experience," said Dr. John Schmidt, senior vice chancellor for student affairs. "Certainly top-quality living facilities combined with strong academics and quality student life activities complete that experience."

The complex is expected to take a year to complete. Ambling University Development Group, a national developer, builder and manager of university communities, is responsible for the design and construction of the complex, and Whaley Construction of Troy is the general contractor.

Also on the Troy Campus, construction of the new Barnes & Noble Bookstore is ongoing.

The 10,400 square-foot bookstore, adjacent to the Trojan Center, will be equipped by Barnes & Noble to match the company's superstores and will include a café, a reading area, trade books and wide selection of casual reading.

Sohail Agboatwala, director of auxiliary services and student activities, said construction on the new



bookstore is scheduled to be completed in Summer 2007, and the facility should be 100 percent operational in time for the start of the fall semester.

Another Troy Campus project that remains on the drawing board at this point is a new College of Education building.

The Troy University Board of Trustees voted in August to move ahead with plans for the new building, setting aside up to \$10 million to pay for the new building and authorizing the sale of bonds to pay for construction. The resolution also authorized Troy University Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., to proceed with the development of detailed plans for the construction of the new College of Education facilities.

The 60,000 square-foot building will house instructional space on two floors and faculty offices on its third floor. University officials plan to break ground on the new building in 2007. The new building will be located on the property currently occupied by Dill Hall.

"Of course, our roots at this University are buried deeply in the preparation of teachers," said TROY



At top, this artist rendering shows the new student housing complex that is currently under construction on the Troy Campus. The facility, which is scheduled to open in fall 2007, is a complex of four new dormitory buildings that will provide the University with 524 additional beds. Above, construction continues on the new Barnes & Noble Bookstore on the Troy Campus. The 10,400 square foot building, shown in the artist rendering above, will include a café, a reading area, trade books and wide selection of casual reading.

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. "The College of Education enrollment is the second largest in our University and it's time that we provided an adequate – in fact a beautiful setting that this building will represent – in which to train future teachers."

TROY featured in annual U.S. News & World Report rankings

Troy University has been named a top-tier school among its peer institutions in the Southeast in the latest national ranking by a major U.S. publication.

U.S. News and World Report's annual guide "America's Best Colleges" named Troy University as one of 64 "Best Universities-Master's" for the Southeast region. This ranking includes colleges and universities that offer undergraduate and master's programs across 12 states.

Criteria reviewed include graduation rate, class size, SAT/ACT scores of entering freshmen, retention rate of freshmen and acceptance rate of freshmen and transfer students.

"National rankings are a barometer of how others view you and how well your university is doing," Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., chancellor, said. "The honor of being recognized this year by U.S. News and World Report as a top tier university among the masters-degree level universities in the southeastern United States is a great reflection on our students, faculty and staff and indeed the entire University community."

University launches new online student recruitment program

Troy University is reaching prospective students through a new online recruitment program called TROY Smart Search.

This program is operated and managed through the enrollment management company GoalQuest. Through online monitoring, GoalQuest partners with TROY to target prospective students and create innovative solutions to help the University's admissions counselors in the recruitment process.

The students are contacted via e-mail and encouraged to log on to the Smart Search Website, which is www.destinationtroy.edu.

The TROY Smart Search Web site includes articles on college preparation, information about majors, surveys, an area for students to contact University admissions counselors and a TROY student UBLOG.

UBLOG features blogs from seven current TROY students. Jared Cartee, a TROY admissions counselor, said the admissions department selected the students with diversity in mind. The seven students chosen include: Chris Bowens, a TROY football player from Columbus, Ga.; Suzanne Bhatti, a Troy native; Kevin Dew from Montgomery; David Leblanc of Fairhope; Aderonke Olaley, Troy University's 2006 Freshman of the Year from Baltimore; Amy Scaro from Pelham; and Nicole Nicholas of Millbrook.

Civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis receives Hall-Waters Prize

An icon of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement urged Troy University students on Oct. 2 to continue to fight for freedom and peace around the world.

U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Georgia) visited the University Monday to receive the Hall-Waters Prize. The Hall-Waters Prize is endowed by TROY alumnus Dr. Wade Hall, an author, former member of the faculty at the University of Florida and professor emeritus of English at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY.

Dr. Hall, a native of Bullock County, endowed the prize as a memorial to his parents, Wade Hall, Sr., and Sarah Elizabeth Waters Hall. The award is presented annually to a person who has made significant contributions to Southern heritage and culture in history, literature or the arts.

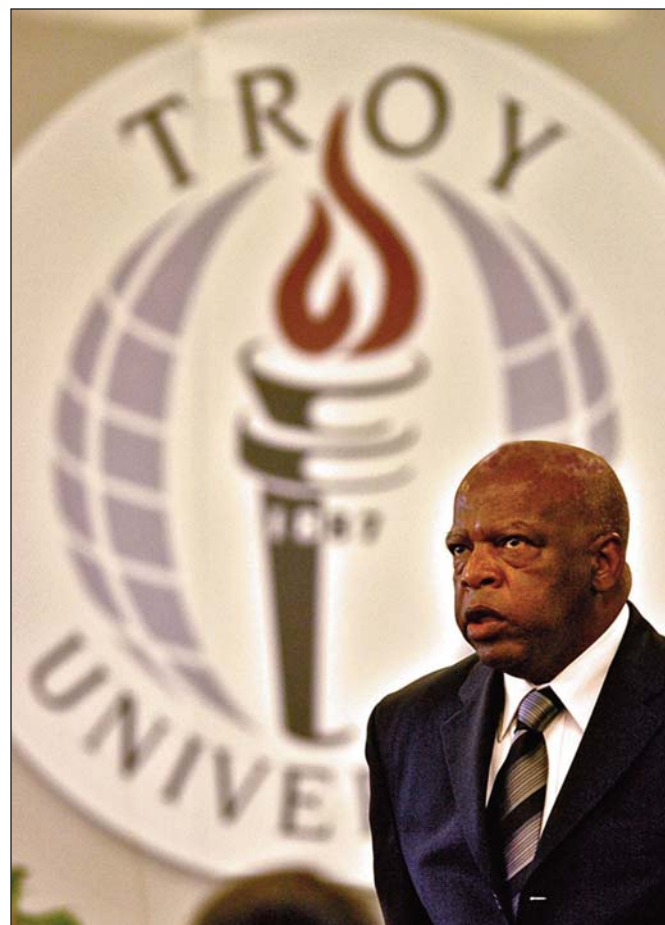
Lewis, who grew up less than 15 miles from Troy in rural Pike County, talked about his rise from the life as a sharecropper's son to a lofty position as leader of the Civil Rights Movement and confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Due to institutionalized racial segregation in the late 1950s, Lewis did not attend TROY, instead leaving his family's Pike County farm for Nashville and American Baptist Theological Seminary and Fisk University. Lewis played a role in the watershed events of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, such as "Bloody Sunday" and the Selma-to-Montgomery March, the "Freedom Rides" and the march on Washington, where he shared the podium with Dr. King and the famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

"Of the 10 people who spoke that day, I am the last one around," he said.

Despite suffering for his beliefs in equality for all races — Lewis was arrested more than 40 times and was beaten on several occasions — the Georgia congressman urged Troy University students to tackle their problems with hope and optimism. He also encouraged them to carry on the mission of the Civil Rights Movement by advocating freedom and equality for all peoples of the world.

"Never, ever give up. Never, ever give in. Never get lost



in a sea of despair," Lewis said. "Colleagues have asked me why I am not bitter. I have told them over and over again that hate is too heavy a burden to bear."

More than 250 students heard Lewis's remarks in the Trojan Center ballrooms, honoring him with two standing ovations. Many of these students have been studying Lewis' memoir of the Civil Rights Movement "Walking with the Wind" in their English classes in preparation for his visit.

Dr. Wade Hall introduced Lewis as a "fighter on the front lines of a good war, with danger and destruction always lurking." He praised Lewis for his service in Congress and his continued leadership in the fight for human rights.

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., welcomed Lewis home to TROY and pointed out that many changes have taken place at Troy University since Lewis tried to enroll in the late 1950s. For example, African-American students make up 22 percent of the enrollment on the Troy Campus and last year Troy University worldwide awarded diplomas to more than 2,000 African-American students.

Dr. Hawkins also pointed out that the Hall-Waters Prize is not the first honor Rep. Lewis has received from TROY, as the University awarded him the honorary doctor of laws degree in 1989.

At left, Rep. John Lewis (Ga.-D) speaks to Troy University students during his recent visit. Rep. Lewis received the University's Hall-Waters Prize during a ceremony in October. TROY alumnus Wade Hall endowed the prize in the memory of his parents for significant contributions to Southern heritage and culture in history, literature or the arts. Above, Rep. Lewis speaks to a crowd of more than 250 during the Oct. 2 ceremony.