



This aerial view of the Troy Campus, circa 1950, demonstrates the growth the University has experienced over the last 56 years. Among the buildings shown are Pace, Shackelford and Bibb Graves halls. The University is once again looking to the future as it embarks on “Troy University: Vision 2010,” a strategic plan that was approved by the Board of Trustees in March (see related story beginning on page 16). The plan maps out strategic objectives for the University in areas of academics, student-centeredness, cost-effectiveness and infrastructure, internationalization, faculty and staff development and telling the TROY story.

alumnotes

'60s

Donnie Tillery (1968), owner of Professional Realty, had more sales of church-owned property in Dallas County, Texas, than any other real estate agent for 2005.

Amelia Sessions Rhoades (1969) was recently named the Enterprise Ozark Community College Alumna of the Year. After completing an associate of arts degree in 1967 at Enterprise State Junior College, Rhoades went on to earn a bachelor's degree in physical education from TROY.

'70s

Frederick Sides (1974) retired June 2005 after 40 years in law enforcement.

Dr. Arthur L. Walker, Jr. (1974), president of Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma, TN, was honored on the occasion of his retirement with the adoption of a resolution recognizing his service. He was employed with the school for 18 years before retiring on June 30.

Max Bozeman (1975) was recently elected the president-elect of the Alabama Cattlemen's

Association during the organization's annual convention in Birmingham. Upon graduation from TROY, Bozeman bought a farm in Coffee County and has been a full-time cattle producer and farmer ever since. He and his wife Kathy have two grown sons.

Nick P. Ardillo, Jr. (1977) has retired as the executive director of the Golden Triangle Regional Airport in Mississippi after more than 40 years of service in the public sector, including 26 years in the U.S. Air Force, and seven years as the deputy chief of staff for Gov. Kirk Fordice.

Since Summer 2002, **Larry H.**

Kelley (1977, 1982) has conducted more than 100 faculty development workshops on educational planning, assessment and institutional research in more than 30 states, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Ronny Mobley (1977) is Market President of Wachovia Bank in Ozark, AL.

Mary T. Stone (1977) was recently honored by the Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce as the Middle School Teacher of the Year. Stone, who has taught for 31 years in the Andalusia City School system, holds master's degrees in physical education and counseling from TROY.

Jerry W. Johnson (1978) was recently promoted to senior vice president of claims by Alfa Insurance. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from TROY and a law degree from Jones School of Law. Johnson began his career with Alfa in 1980 and has served in a number of man-

agement positions for the company.

Anne Taylor (1979) is one course away from an education specialist degree in administrative leadership. Taylor is a fourth-grade teacher at Dauphin Island Elementary School.

'80s

Ricky Gene Locklar (1981) has been appointed as senior special agent for the enforcement division of the Alabama Securities Commission. He holds a criminal justice degree.

Tommy Wasden (1987), a former quarterback on the Trojans football team, has been named head football coach at Mobile Christian School. Tommy's brother Shayne is currently a member of the football coaching staff at TROY.

Riley P. Green III (1988) has earned the Doctor of Education degree in organizational leadership from Nova

Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He also holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School.

Patrick Simms (1988) was recently hired as the chief executive officer of Etowah County. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and computer information science and is certified as an Alabama County Administrator.

Keith Wallace (1988) has been named vice president and commercial lender of Colonial Bank's Prattville office. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing.

Thomas Lee Williams (1989) has been promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He is married to the former Ashley Thorpe of Madras, OR, and the couple has two sons.

Coleman named to Higher Ed Commission

Troy University alumnus **Jeff Coleman (1995)**, president of Coleman

American Moving Services, Inc., was recently appointed to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education by Gov. Bob

Riley. He was confirmed on March 1 by the Alabama Senate.

Coleman will be representing the state-at-large district on the commission and will serve a nine-year term.

Coleman earned a Master of Business Administration degree from TROY. He received his Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama.

Coleman's professional colleagues have elected him as a board member for the American Moving and Storage

Association, the Allied Van Lines Agents Association and the Household Goods Forwarders Association of America.

Coleman American Companies, Inc., is a full-service, worldwide moving and storage company, operating more than 35 Service Centers throughout the United States, a top 10 van line carrier and Covan World Wide Moving. The company has an agent affiliation with Allied Van Lines, the largest relocation organization in the world.



'90s

Teresa Shiver (1991) was recently selected as Carroll High School's 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year. She holds a degree in Secondary Education English/History.

Kevin Mark Peters (1992) recently became the chief of police for the city of Montevallo. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Army Reserve Capt. Michael D. Smith (1992) recently returned to the U.S. after being deployed to an overseas forward operating location in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Smith is a logistics staff officer assigned to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL.

Robin Beasley (1993) recently became assistant director of economic development for the city of Ozark. She has two daughters, Jordan and Julie Alexis.

Cassie Gross Sanford (1993) was recently appointed vice president of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham. Sanford has also been named one of Birmingham's "Top 40 Under 40" brightest rising stars on the local business scene by *The Birmingham Business Journal*.

Jason Tyre (1995) is a court referral officer serving Barbour, Bullock and Macon counties. He holds a degree in criminal justice.

Christy S. Coskrey (1996) recently joined the Tome West Co. as a realtor. She holds a bachelor's in business administration with a concentration in marketing and public relations.

Go West

Troy University alumnus Howard Pelham has published 20 novels

By Chris Warden

Most people would consider teaching for 35-plus years a career. Not Howard Pelham (class of 1951).

In 1988, his real career was just getting started with the publication of his first short story.

Pelham expanded that story into a novel (*Twelve Wagons West*), a New York publisher bought it, and now, the author of 20 books is working on his 21st – all Western fiction.

"I've wanted to write for as long as I can remember, but I didn't have the time," said Pelham from his Centennial, CO, home recently.

Pelham said that he grew up on a farm in south Alabama, and he started writing fiction about the West because of that time in his life. "I grew up riding horses and just got a feeling for the West," he said.

With titles such as *Highline Riders*, *Death Canyon*, *A Posse of Outlaws* and *Brotherhood of Thieves*, Pelham has used the backdrop of the American West to tell stories about human beings and their challenges.

Some of those challenges come from the setting and times of the West, and others are basic to the human condition: knowing right from wrong, what it means to be loyal and an awareness of what it takes to

Coskrey and her husband Mark have a son, Jack, and make their home in Dothan, AL.

Ernest Gines (1997), a former Marine, was recently awarded tenure at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, Texas, and was nominated for the college's Exemplary Faculty Award last year.

Thadiaz Oliver (1997) was voted by his colleagues as Dimon Elementary School's 2006 top

teacher in his first year of eligibility. After 22 years of service in the U.S. Army, Oliver became the first male in his family to obtain a bachelor's degree, majoring in business. He later found his way to the classroom and is now in his fourth year of teaching kindergarten at the Columbus, GA, school.

Christopher Peters (1997) has been promoted to vice president for Community Bank and Trust of Southeast Alabama. He

survive.

Such awareness stems from Pelham's own history. He had teaching positions at Troy University, Chipley High School (FL), Marianna Junior College (FL), Peabody College (now part of Vanderbilt University), Belmont College (Nashville, TN) and ended his education career at the University of South Alabama.

But even after he sold his first novel, survival as a writer wasn't a sure thing.

"It's very hard to break into publishing," he said, "especially in the New York houses."

It was this difficulty that led him to a secondary pursuit: helping other writers get published.

Along with Jim Meals, he formed the Pelham Literary Agency in the San Diego area to help new and established writers.

According to Pelham, very few manuscripts are publishable when first written.

"So we'd work with authors to help them with their writing," Pelham said.

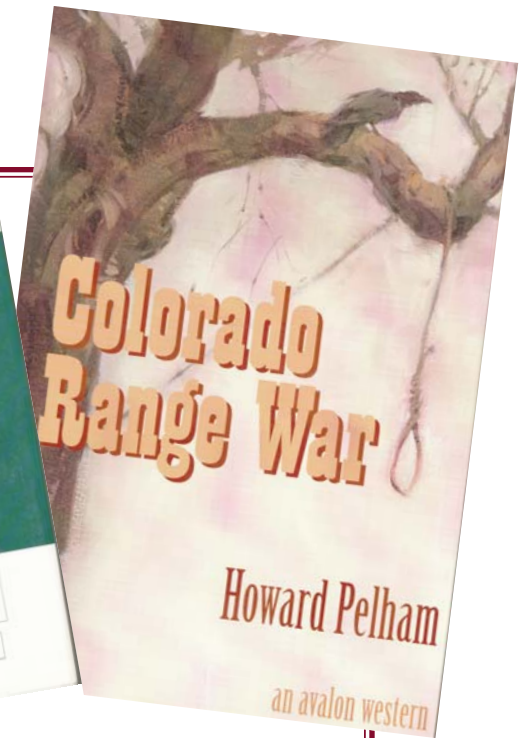
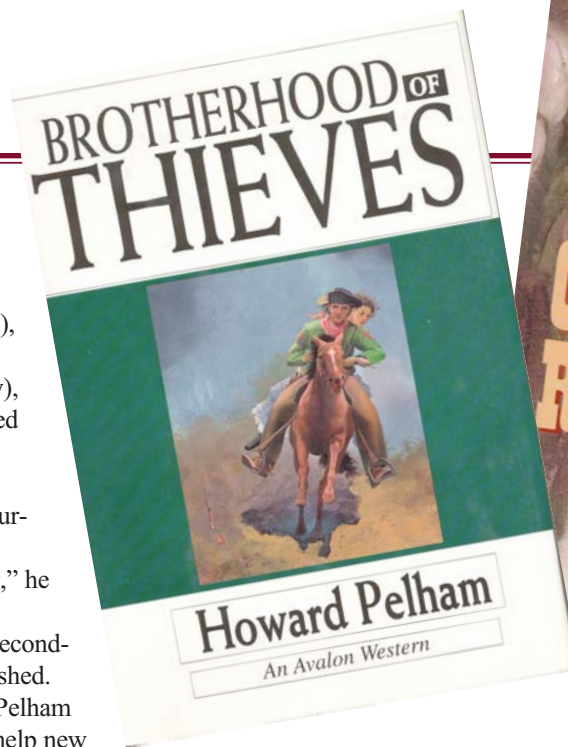
Then, the small agency would act as the author's agent, trying to persuade publishers to print these works.

According to the Pelham Literary Agency's Web site: "After being burned by several agents, Howard decided to teach himself the art of selling a manuscript. He eventually sold 14 novels and several short stories. In 1993, Howard decided that he could do for other writers what he had done for himself."

"We've had a half-dozen writers that we have helped get published," Pelham said.

One of these writers, Patrick A. Davis, author of *The General*, had this to say about Pelham.

"A special thanks to my agent, Howard Pelham, the



fine Southern gentleman who has become both teacher and friend."

Pelham has since sold his share of the agency to Meals, so he could return to writing full time.

He moved to Centennial, CO, outside Denver, flanked by the Sierras to the west and the Great Plains to the east, fitting stages for his brand of fiction.

As for his days at TROY, "I had a marvelous time," said Pelham. "I learned a lot from Dr. (Emmett) Kilpatrick (professor of English and French from 1937-1961), who was my mentor."

Doubtless there are thousands of students who would say the same about Howard Pelham.

And thousands more people would call him writer.

Warden is a professor in Troy University's Hall School of Journalism.

is married to the former Nicole A. Perala of Ozark and the couple has two children.

Jennifer Robinson (1997) has joined Summit Asset Management as director of community services. The Miami native holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration.

Monte McGougin (1998) was recently named police chief for the city of Brewton, AL. The Brewton native holds a bachelor's in criminal justice from TROY and began

his law enforcement career with the Troy Police Department.

Steve Cover (1999), a 25-year veteran of the Virginia Beach Fire Department, was recently promoted to the rank of deputy chief. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from TROY.

Michael D. Gamble (1999) has been promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Four of the U.S. Army.

Jerry Pharr (1999), a native of Excel, AL, recently joined the staff of First National Bank and Trust as a loan officer at its Monroeville, AL, office. At TROY, Pharr was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Delta pre-medical honor society and Tri Beta biological sciences honorary society.

Linda Segrest (1999) has been named director of Baptist Hospice. She has worked in hospice care for seven years.

'00s

Andrea Allen (2000) recently joined the staff of Style Advertising, Inc., in Birmingham as an administrative assistant. Allen holds a bachelor's in journalism from TROY.

Darby Cameron (2000) started her own company, Darby Handbags, about three years ago. Her company has grown into a fun website where people can design-your-own purse, diaper bag or reconstructed skirts.

Meloni Carter (2000) has been named chief nursing officer at Prattville (AL) Baptist Hospital. Carter, a family nurse practitioner, has a master's degree in nursing from TROY.

Barbara Eskeridge (2000) has been promoted to assistant auditing officer of the Peoples Bank and Trust Co. She has been employed by Peoples Bank since 1992. Eskeridge and her husband George have one son and make their home in Selma, AL.

Linda Jennings (2000) recently joined R.W. Beck, Inc., as a strategic and business planning senior consultant. She will be providing strategic, business and marketing planning for municipal clients in the Southeast region.

Stephen Hicks (2000) has been promoted to area president of Autauga and Elmore counties for Colonial Bank. He previously served as senior vice president of commercial lending at Colonial's Perry Street office in Montgomery, AL.

Angela Hutchinson Thompson (2000) was recently named West Blocton Middle School's Teacher of the Year. She holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education English/History and recently received a Master of Arts in History



Good genes

101-year-old alum remembers Troy State Normal School, offers her secrets to long life

By Clif Lusk

It was May 1924 when a young Louise Fleming stepped out of Troy State Normal School and into a world abuzz around her.

Over on "the new site," Kilby Hall was nearing completion, and an open-air pavilion had been constructed in 1921 just north of the main building at the old campus in downtown Troy. Dr. Shackelford, the school's president, was preparing a transition to a four-year degree program, rather than the two-year course in place at the time.

"At that time, TROY was a teacher's college and we got cer-

tificates so we could go teach," said Montgomery resident Louise Fleming Surratt (Class of '24).

At 101, she's among the University's oldest living alums and isn't planning on heading anywhere in the near future.

"It was a very satisfactory school. You had Dr. Pace, Dr. Wright and Dr. Shackelford and the people who got their certificates didn't have any trouble getting jobs," she said.

Surratt, who retired after 41 years as Colbert County director of what then was the Department of Pensions and Security (now

from the University of Alabama Birmingham.

Cooper Gouge (2001) recently became an acquisitions editor for Kendall Hunt Publishing. Kendall Hunt is the largest provider in the higher education market with over 7,000 titles in print.

Dr. Clint Green (2001) has joined the practice of Boothe Veterinary Clinic in Opp, AL. The Louisville, AL, native is married to the former Nicole Meeks of New Brockton, and the couple has a son.

Wanjiku Jackson (2001) was recently promoted to project manager and vocational services coordinator at Okaloosa-Walton College.

Sal Lee Sasser (2001) was recently named director of operations for Sasser Enterprises, Inc., a family-owned health care managing company based in Andalusia, AL.

Osi Umenyiora (2002), defensive end for the New York Giants, recently made a trip to Linden

Department of Human Resources), headed to Montavallo after earning her teacher's certificate. There, she completed an "AB" degree – what would later be known as the bachelor of arts degree.

She would spend the next seven years as a school teacher – first in Uniontown and then in Brewton.

"I went to University of North Carolina one summer because I thought I might want to continue teaching, but I changed my mind and decided to be a social worker instead," she said. "Many of us who were teaching stopped because the salary was so low, and we became social workers because it paid so much more.

"Now," she adds, "teachers get paid more than social workers."

She began graduate coursework at the University of Chicago shortly after her decision to jump into social work, but as she puts it, "I chose a 'Mrs. Degree' instead of a master's."

The Troy University of today, Surratt said, is much different than the Normal School she attended.

"You didn't have nearly as many buildings or as many kinds of departments as now," she said. "There were a few social clubs, not many – but, of course, now there's so many opportunities like athletics, music, things that were not there back then," she said.

When Surratt attended TROY, her home was Laura Henderson Hall, the girls' dormitory. It had been constructed in 1915. Today, a parking lot, fire station and a gas company occupy the space.

Although the landscape and the University have changed dramatically since Surratt earned her teacher's certificate 82 years ago, her advice to students hasn't.

"By all means, get a degree. Before you start, try to make up your mind about the type of work you want to be in for some time. Talk to people who are taking different courses in different fields and visit with people who seem to be happy in their profession instead of changing from one thing to another," she said. "I stuck with teach-



TROY alumna Louise Sarratt proudly displays the new Troy University blanket she recently received during a visit with Alumni Affairs Director Faith Ward.

ing and social work and was very happy with both.

"Your goal should be to help people along the way," she added.

And as for her 101 years – she turns 102 on Oct. 19 – she has a secret to her longevity.

"I don't have any serious health problems, I exercise three or four days a week and I try to be as active as I can be physically," she said, noting that she rides a stationary bicycle "a good bit."

"A doctor once asked me (my secret for longevity)," she recalled. "I told him just three things: first, my mother's and father's genes that I inherited. Second is the advances in medical science along the way, and, third, is the type of care I received for about the first three or four years of my life."

Elementary School No. 6 to reward students' participation in "The Super Bowl of Reading," a program at the elementary school designed to give students incentive to read.

Kelley Blackwell (2003) performed at this year's Festival on the Rivers in Geneva, AL. The country music recording artist, who released her debut CD in 2004, holds a communications arts degree with a dramatic track.

Bobby Jon Drinkard (2003) has joined the Troy University staff

as an admissions counselor. In 2005, he was a contestant on the CBS television show "Survivor."

Kent Calhoun (2004) has joined AlabamaFirst Realtors. He and his wife Melanie live in Bay Springs, AL. Calhoun previously served as a loan originator for Arrow Mortgage.

George De La Torre (2004) was recently promoted to director of sales for Grainger Industrial Supply.

Michele Gerlach (2004) was

recently named president and publisher of Andalusia Newspapers, Inc. She holds a master's degree in leadership and organizational effectiveness.

Stanley D. Singleton (2004) was just hired as the associate director for General Education Development Center and instructor of education at Paine College in Augusta, GA.

Scott C. Ward (2004) is employed by the chief financial officer of the State of Florida as the

Service Management Analyst.

Donna Clemmons (2005) has been named finance manager for Wiregrass United Way. She holds a master's degree in accounting.

Alexandra Miller (2005) was recently named director of art and education for the Wiregrass Museum of Art. She graduated from TROY Magna Cum Laude with a degree in studio art.

Eric Wright (2005) works with Nationwide Insurance Washington Agency in Demopolis. Wright holds a degree in risk management and insurance.

Rachel Dockery (2006) has been accepted to the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Jenny Hogg (2006) recently accepted a graduate assistantship position with the University of Alabama.

Brad Hutson (2006) has been

accepted to do an internship with the Boston Red Sox. He completed his degree in athletic training in May.

Lauren Lane (2006) has been accepted to the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

weddings & engagements

Jennifer Wallen (1998) to Michael McKinnon (1993) on August 27, 2005
Traci Atchison (1992) to Mike Turley on January 21, 2006
Allen Scheffer (1993) to Julie Sheffield on May 20, 2006
Ashley Davis (1995) to Kenny Scruggs on February 11, 2006
Scott Jordan (1996) to Blakely Haywood on April 1, 2006
Brandon McMahan (2000) to Lauren Peters (2002) on October 15, 2005
Julie Neher (2000) to Jeremy Luker (2001) on January 7, 2006
Amanda Calfee (2001) to Hayden Hicks on January 21, 2006
Kathryn D. Carden (2001) to Michael Murphy on October 29, 2005
Carrie Weaver (2001) to Philip Brown on December 23, 2005
Abbie Kathryn Beck (2003) to Robert Ellis (2003) on April 22, 2006
Kendall Michalic (2003) to Jonathan Wheelless on January 30, 2006
Stephanie Arnold (2004) to William Wingard (2005) on February 4, 2006
Kelly Foster (2004) to William Fuller (2004) on April 8, 2006
Tiffany Hawthorne (2004) to Andrew Windham (2005) on February 11, 2006
Anneliese Price (2004) to Joey Wood on January 28, 2006
Bethany Dye (2005) to Gunter Akridge on April 22, 2006
Kimberly D. Carter (2005) to Jamie Bowers on April 15, 2006
Jacqlyn F. Fowler (2005) to Scotty Kirkland (2005) on December 3, 2005
Carrie Townsend (2005) to Joseph Phillips on December 30, 2005
Amanda Yohn (2005) to Jared McPhaul (2005) on May 27, 2006

in remembrance

Troy University Alumni

1936 - Mrs. Elizabeth B. Jones
1942 - Ms. Hilda Marchman
Blackwell
1945 - Mrs. Homer Patty
1947 - Mrs. Patricia Shoffner
1949 - Mr. James W. Commander
1950 - Major James L. Driggers
1950 - Mr. Mitchell Kirkland
1952 - Mr. Charles W. Wilson
1954 - Mr. Mack Primm
1956 - Mrs. Mary A. Childers
1958 - Mrs. Clairrene Roberts
Johnson
1959 - Dr. Seaborn Adams
Thompson
1961 - Mr. Don B. Harrison
1965 - Mr. Terry D. Lane
1966 - Mrs. Ruby Lee Bulgar
Kelley
1968 - Mr. Raymond Stephens
1969 - Mr. Ted B. Smith, Sr.
1970 - Mr. Fred Daniel Goodwin, Jr.
1972 - Mr. James Preston Herrin

1972 - Mr. Bobby J. McCracken
1973 - Mrs. Betty T. McCutchin
1973 - Mr. Lester Leon Perault, Jr.
1973 - Mr. Ernest M. Warner
1974 - Ms. Janet R. Lang
1975 - Ms. Carol Jean Bassett
1975 - Mrs. C. Merle Peebles
Fisher
1975 - Mr. C. D. Sherlin
1976 - Mr. Bobby G. Price
1976 - Mr. Jackson Kermit Schultz
1978 - Miss Ramona L. Childers
1978 - Mr. Merrill D. Hinson
1978 - Mr. Evan L. Holt
1978 - Ms. Mary Earle Middleton
1979 - Mr. James Orville Johnson
1979 - Lt. Col. Bobby E. McMeans
1980 - Mrs. Gladys A. Dechance
1980 - Ms. Gladys J. Jewell
1981 - Mr. Christopher J. Bond
1981 - Mr. Daniel Salvino
1982 - Mr. James W. Amason
1983 - Ms. Ruth M. Pilgrim
1984 - Mr. Joseph T. Davis

1987 - Mrs. Maria M. Scott
1988 - Mr. Ross G. Livermore
1989 - Mr. Larry Alan Kowalchuk
1991 - Mrs. Mary Bubbett
1991 - Mr. Bradford S. Woods
1992 - Ms. Mary Hill Sollie
1993 - Mrs. Polly A. Patterson
1994 - Mr. Amory S. Kirk
1998 - Mr. Mark C. Curtis
1999 - Mr. Lee C. Houston, Jr.
1999 - Mrs. Yvonne T. Jones
2005 - Mr. Christopher D. Flowers
Mrs. Eloise Highertower Greer-Beck
Mr. Jerome Klein
Ms. Mary McGhee
Major Stanley L. Webster
Mr. Texal Larue Young

Troy University Friends

Mr. Jack Rushing Brunson
Dr. Grady McWhiney
Mrs. Ruth Amelia King Russell
Mr. Quincey W. Tucker
Mrs. Imogene Reese Walters

chapter news

The **Southwest Alabama Alumni Chapter** recently hosted a membership meeting at Wintzell's Oyster House in Mobile, AL.

Chapter President John Browning welcomed the large gathering, presented scholarships and introduced the Honorable Forest Latta to the group. Latta is a member of the chapter and is the newest member of the Troy University Board of Trustees.

Latta in turn introduced Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., as the guest speaker for the evening.

Coach Larry Blakeney, introduced by former Trojan football player Brent Roe, discussed the upcoming 2006 football season.

Some of the guests attending included: Melvin and Lamona Lucas, former Trustee Harold Collins, Bill Wasden and Connie Hudson.

Other officials attending included Dr. Cameron Martindale, senior vice chancellor for advancement and external relations; Bill Minix, director of advancement; Faith Ward, executive director of the Troy University Alumni Association; and Mike Amos, chapter development coordinator.

The Southwest Alabama Alumni chapter is planning a bus trip to the TROY vs. Florida State football game in Tallassee, FL, on Sept. 9. Cost for the trip is \$75 per person. For more information about the trip, please call Amy Roe at (251) 634-0939.

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The **Emerald Coast Alumni chapter** recently hosted a Texas Hold'em tournament at Buster's Sports Bar and Grill. The tournament served as one of their main scholarship fundraisers for the year.

More than 50 participants competed for prizes ranging from weekend trips to the beach to t-shirts and caps. Each participant was presented a goodie bag and a custom made poker chip.

The Emerald Coast Alumni chapter also hosted their annual membership meeting and fish fry at the Fort Walton Beach Elk's Lodge with chap-



TROY Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., right, presents a plaque to Sam Whalum, co-president of the new Montgomery Metro Alumni Association, during a chartering ceremony at Montgomery's Arrowhead Country Club.

New Montgomery Metro Alumni Chapter formed by merger

Troy University's two existing alumni chapters in Montgomery became one during a special ceremony in April.

The Troy University Montgomery Alumni Association and the Greater Montgomery Alumni Chapter combined to form the Metro Montgomery Alumni Chapter during the chartering ceremony.

Troy University Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., presented the new chapter's charter.

The Montgomery Alumni Association's membership previously consisted of graduates of the University's Montgomery

Campus, while the Greater Montgomery Chapter was made up mainly of graduates of the Troy Campus.

The new Metro Montgomery Chapter will be under the leadership of co-presidents Sam Whalum and Todd Mote. Johnny Lawler will serve as vice president, Margaret Stanfield and Billy Whigham as co-treasurers and Yolanda Porter as secretary. Julia Wilson is the executive director.

The chartering ceremony followed the chapter's "Golf for Scholarships" tournament held at the Arrowhead Country Club.

ter President Joe Justice presiding.

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., was the guest speaker for the event. Other officials included Athletic Director Steve Dennis and Director of Bands Ralph Ford.

Special entertainment was provided

by the Sound of the South Jazz band under the direction of Bryden Atwater.

The chapter's annual golf tournament, another scholarship fundraiser, was held June 9 at the Ft. Walton Beach Municipal golf course.