



Odyssey Convocation – Troy University alumna Jill Dobson (left), entertainment correspondent for Fox News, speaks to new students during the University’s third annual Odyssey Convocation for new students. Dobson, a 1998 broadcast journalism honor graduate, encouraged students to take full advantage of their time at TROY by becoming an active part of the University community and benefiting from the expertise of the faculty. “Troy University helped me gain practical experience and I thrived under the personal attention of my instructors,” Dobson told the gathering. Above, Dr. Bill Thompson and Sade Hicks, representing the College of Arts and Sciences, light the Odyssey torch during the convocation.

– Photos by Kevin Glackmeyer

alumnnotes

'60s

Julia Culpepper (1967) retired from Clanton Elementary School in June after 40 years in teaching.

Connie Coleman (1969) recently took the office of president of the Greenville Rotary Club.

Barry Singletary (1969) of Headland has been named city president of the Headland office of Peoples South Bank.

'70s

David Mallach (1971), a senior vice president in Merrill Lynch’s Elkins Park, PA, office, has won Registered Representative’s 2007 Outstanding Advisor Award. Mallach has been with the Elkins Park, PA, office for 34 years. He

currently serves as an arbitrator for the National Association of Security Dealers, the world’s largest private-sector regulator of financial services.

Carl Raley (1975) has been named principal at Escambia County High School in Atmore.

David Sprayberry (1975, 1978) was recently appointed as director of Vivian B. Adams School in Ozark. He previously served as employment services coordinator at the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center in Dothan.

Emmett Burnett (1976) received an “Award of Excellence 2006 in Feature Writing for Magazines,” from the Mobile Press Club. He was recognized by the organization’s August 4, 2007, banquet and ceremony. Burnett is a freelance writer living in Mobile.

Melinda Howard Goode (1976) currently works at DCH Medical Center in Tuscaloosa as a Clinical Lab Scientist in Special Chemistry/Toxicology Lab. As an alumna, Melinda continued her Kappa Delta involvement as Zeta chapter CAB Panhellenic/ recruitment advisor served on the KD legacy recommendation committee and is a member of the Tuscaloosa alumnae association.

'80s

James Kelley Hall (1982) is the new head women's basketball coach at the University of Cincinnati. The Selma native previously served as head women's basketball coach at Louisiana-Lafayette.

Jerry Browning (1984) was recently named athletic director at Montgomery's St. James School. He

previously served as athletic director at Hoover High School.

James M. Harvey, Jr., (1987) has joined Central Georgia Technical College in Macon, GA, as public relations and information director. He holds a degree in broadcast journalism from TROY.

Jim Hattaway (1988) was elected by his peers to a five-year term on the

Swain aids in rebuilding Iraq

By Inga Oberst

Sometimes life leads you in unexpected directions. That is definitely the case for Troy University graduate Jason Swain.

Swain's degree from TROY has carried him a long way from Southeast Alabama. The 28-year-old Ozark resident is a satellite communications specialist employed in Iraq. The civilian contractor is deployed at Camp Ramadi where he works for DataPath, Inc., a satellite equipment manufacturer and service provider.

"I directly support the Army 1st Brigade 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, GA," Swain said. "I am a field service representative for the deployable tactical satellite tracking terminals that make up the Joint Network Node."

It is a high-tech, high-paying job in a region wrought with danger. It is not a career path Swain originally envisioned when he studied marketing at the Dothan Campus, but the terror attacks of September 11 caused him to rethink his mission in life.

After graduating from TROY, Swain joined the Air Force. The son of a soldier once stationed at Fort Rucker, Swain found immediate success as a satellite wideband telemetry space systems technician.

Swain has fond memories of this time spent at Troy University.

"I chose the Dothan Campus because of its smaller class size," Swain said. "It was important to me to have



Troy University alumnus Jason Swain is pictured with the DataPath ET 3000 Portable, which is utilized for battlefield communications. The civilian contractor services the equipment at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

more direct face time with the instructors. It facilitates a better learning environment and a more intense classroom pace. The instructors can focus on the learning ability of the class and adjust their lessons to accommodate the students."

While six years have passed since Swain attended classes, the lessons he learned from Dr. Matthew Elbeck, Troy University professor of marketing, have left a major impression.

"His style of teaching and level of expectations are exactly what a college senior needs," Swain recalled. "I will never forget how he explained his grading scale. He said, 'If you learn everything that is asked of you, you will get a 'C.' You will get a 'B' if you

have learned and can apply the material and an 'A' if you truly understand and have mastered the material.' Whenever I find myself in a learning environment, I always revert to that grading scale to steer me on the right path for its completion."

Swain still has a passion for marketing and may enter the field someday.

He also looks forward to the day he is able to reunite with his wife, Shannon, and his three-year-old son, Ethan Tylor.

"I miss him everyday," Swain said, "but I do this so hopefully he won't have to."

Oberst is a university relations coordinator on the Dothan Campus.

Board of Governors of the Society of Financial Examiners at the group's annual meeting in Tucson, AZ. He will serve a two-year term on the executive committee and was appointed as vice president of nominations and vice president of professional standards.

Greg Willis (1989) has been selected as Chief of the Wetumpka Alabama Fire Department after serving as the Assistant Chief for nine years. He becomes the first full-time chief of the department. Willis has also served as the Executive Director for the Alabama Fire Sprinkler Association for the past five years.

'90s

Kent Morrow (1990) has been named Coordinator of Learning Support for the Henry County School System in McDonough, GA. He will oversee fine arts, foreign language, ESOL, Title III and hospital/homebound.

Juli Parrish (1990, 1995, 2007) has been named assistant principal at Carroll High School in Ozark.

John B. Logan, III, (1992) teaches history at Enterprise-Ozark Community College.

Larry McQuiston (1992, 2003) is the new principal at Valley High School.

Jeffery Scott Richburg (1993) was the recipient of the McLemore Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award is presented annually to an outstanding teacher at the Montgomery Academy. Richburg is an English instructor and serves as chair of the school's English Department.

Larry Woods (1993) was recently selected as business office manager of Alabama Power's Brewton office.

Tye Bullock (1994) is the Lead Project Manager on the Enterprise Hardware agreement with Dell, HP, Gateway, MPC, NCS, I-gov and Westwood. He just finished his fifth year as head of the technical team for the Air Force's Information Technology Conference. AFITC brings member of the IT community including the Air Force, Department of Defense and Industry throughout the world together to find out about the latest developments in technology, implementation and delivery of integrated information to the troops. Tye is responsible for planning and ensuring technical setup and maintenance support of over 100 seminars, several Keynote addresses, VIP meeting facilities, internet café and registration of an average of 4,000 attendees per year.

Tracey Davis (1994) has graduated from the Southern Trust School, a three-year program that provides a broad-based curriculum focusing on special needs of trust professionals. She is trust operations manager for Troy Bank and Trust.

Continued on Page 28

Change of Heart

By *Andy Ellis*

Troy University provided a change of heart for William Novick, and it proved to be a change that has benefited many a heart since.

The 1975 graduate with a double major in chemistry and biology came to TROY intent on becoming a marine biologist and living out his days studying the marine life along the Gulf Coast. The Gadsden native left TROY intent on making a difference in the lives of others.

Today, Novick, who holds a master's degree in biochemistry and doctor of medicine degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is an internationally known pediatric heart surgeon and founder of the International Children's Heart Foundation, a non-profit organization aimed at providing care for children with heart conditions in underdeveloped or remote regions of the world.

"TROY changed my perspective on the world and my place in it," Novick said while visiting the campus to film a television commercial for the University's "A Measure of Success" alumni ad series. "Troy University challenged me and molded me to be the person I have become today. TROY caused me to change the way I thought about the world and my place in it."

One of the challenges presented to Novick was becoming a founding member of the Lambda Chi fraternity, and he still maintains a connection with the fraternity through its alumni chapter. Among the items on Novick's itinerary for his late August visit was a visit to the Lambda Chi House to do some gardening and to speak to a gathering of fraternity members.

Novick graduated from TROY in three years, something that he now looks back on with some regret.

"I attacked my college experience the way I attack everything in life – with great fervor. I regret that at times



Novick's desire to help others began at TROY

because those three years were some of the greatest of my life," Novick said.

Through the International Children's Heart Foundation, Novick and countless volunteer medical teams seek to provide heart care to children in great need.

"Each year, there are six million children around the world that need heart surgeries that don't get them," Novick said.

"Through volunteer surgical teams, we perform surgeries and also train and equip medical centers throughout the world with the tools and ability to provide this type of care, from start to finish. It's the old adage, do we give them a fish or do we teach them to fish. We do not charge for our services because we use the surgical procedures as educational opportunities to train local medical personnel to be able to provide cardiac care for their people."

To date, the Foundation has made 18 trips to eight different countries and has begun establishing regional centers for cardiac procedures and training. Novick is also pleased with the Foundation's ability to alleviate some of the economic issues from cardiac care through the development of innovative methods and procedures.

"I would like to see us putting two teams in the field per month, which would mean a minimum of six countries per a year," Novick said. "By the end of 2008, we ought to meet that goal. We are very proud of our ability to create

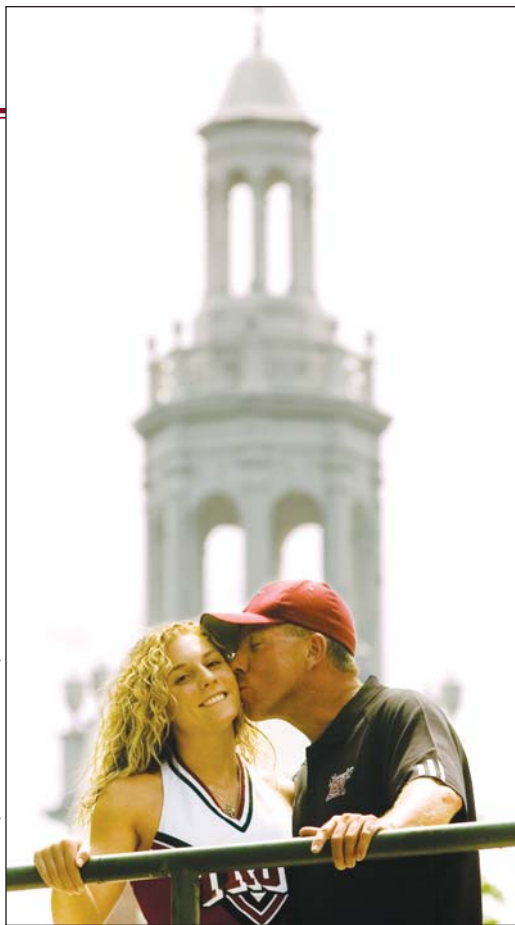
sustainable programs in these regions where there is great need."

Novick also took time during his recent visit to meet with officials from TROY's School of Nursing to discuss possible future partnership opportunities.

Novick's desire to give back through his foundation and continued involvement with Troy University can be traced back to a perspective on life that he developed during his years on the Troy Campus.

"Life is a journey from start to finish that needs to be enjoyed to the maximum," he said. "I don't look at it as there being an endpoint. Having a life and living are two different issues. Think of the difference that would be made in the world if we each did something to help others. The world would be a whole lot different than what we see today."

— Photo by Kevin Glackmeyer



Troy University alumnus Phil Robinson, who has spent the last 13 years as a National Basketball Association referee, greets his daughter Tiffany, a current TROY student and captain of the Trojan cheerleading squad, during a recent visit to campus.

The Big Time

By Chris Warden

Robinson serves as NBA referee

High school athletes usually dream about making it to “the Show.” The Big Time. The Pros.

But referees?

TROY alum Phil Robinson (master’s in education administration, ‘93) started out as a high school referee to help supplement his income.

“I taught history at Hillcrest High School (Tuscaloosa) and coached football and baseball,” said Robinson. “I also had a family and two children.”

“I had no aspirations at all to go higher,” he added.

But higher he went.

He started officiating in the Gulf South Conference, moved to the Trans America Athletic Conference (now the Atlantic Sun Conference), then the Ohio Valley Conference and ultimately to the Southeastern Conference.

He said NBA officials had scouted him at an Arkansas game and called him shortly thereafter. He said he had trouble believing it.

“In fact, when the league called me, I thought, ‘Yeah, right,’” Robinson said.

But it was legitimate, and Robinson has been officiating in the big time for 13 years.

Robinson received his undergraduate degree from Livingston University (now the University of West Alabama) and began his teaching career in Tuscaloosa. He soon went to a position at Southern Union State Community College in east Alabama.

Robinson said he got the job on the condition that he return to school for a master’s degree.

He said he decided on TROY because “it had what I wanted to take. It was close, affordable and provided individualized one-on-one instruction.”

“Plus, I loved the environment.”

So much so, that when major surgery and a blown anterior cruciate ligament cut short his daughter Tiffany’s (‘08) gymnastic career at another university, TROY was a logical choice.

“It’s a great mix of people, but it’s not so big you can’t get to know each other,” said Robinson said.

With Tiffany attending TROY – she’s the captain of the cheerleading squad – Robinson maintains close contact with the University.

For instance, he was on campus the first week of September picking up tickets to the TROY-Florida game that weekend.

The Florida game, though, was the last free time he’d have. His officiating duties require him to travel from mid-September through May.

But hey, that’s the big time.

Warden is an assistant professor in TROY’s Hall School of Journalism.

Continued from Page 26

Kevin Dougherty (1994) recently published the book *Civil War Leadership and Mexican War Experience*.

Stephanie Eason (1994) has been named as a full-time English Instructor at Enterprise-Ozark Community College. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in secondary education/English education from TROY.

Charlie W. “Chip” Williams (1994) was recently appointed as sheriff of Lowndes County.

Roger Dale Studdard (1995) recently received his doctoral degree in educational leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN. He also holds a master’s degree in teaching and learning from Tusculum College in Greenville, TN.

Anthony Wise (1995) was recently promoted to director of marketing for the Scholastic Division of Herff Jones. He has been employed by the company since 1989.

Cheyenne Brinson (1996) recently accepted the position of Director of Business Operations from Primary Care and Dental Services at Heartland Health Outreach, a not-for-profit com-

munity health center in Chicago, IL, that provides healthcare to homeless and low-income Chicagoans. She was Controller of the same organization before transferring into her new role in January.

D'Andrea Weeks (1996) is currently serving an eight-month mission to Uganda with ChildVoice International, a Christian, non-profit humanitarian organization. She is working with children in the war-torn country.

Tommy Weldon (1997) was recently appointed to the position of chief deputy of the Chambers County Sheriff's Department. He previously served as chief of police for the City of Valley.

Dr. Inkil Hwangpo (1998) has joined the staff of the Hale County Hospital.

Stephanie B. Wilson (1998, 1999) has been appointed as director of the Henry County Department of Human Resources.

Ryan Cole (1999) was recently appointed by Gov. Bob Riley to serve as an assistant director of the newly formed Rural Alabama Action Commission.

'00s

Alan Jones (2000) is the new owner

of the Sears store in Brewton. He also is the owner/operator of the Sears location in Andalusia.

Joy N. White (2001) is a recruiter and support coordinator for Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center in Alabama. She received the Glowing Lamp Award from Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. The Chi Eta Phi is a national sorority of professional and registered nurses and nursing students. The

Glowing Lamp is an award given to nurses for the outstanding contributions that they make in the delivery of health care in their community.

Bart Boothe (2002) has joined the Andalusia law firm of Merrell and Bryan, LLC. The focus of his practice will be criminal probate, real estate, personal injury and family law.

Lt. Brien House (2003) was recently

weddings & engagements

Shelley Brigman (1994) to Dale Walton
 Amanda Cofield (1999 & 2005) to Robert Precise (2001)
 Brandi Baker (2001) to Dusty Pouncey
 Jennifer Sweeney (2001) to Russell Colvin
 Felicia Smith (2002) to Jeremiah Toney
 Andrew Brown (2003) to Jennifer Nolen (2007)
 Stephanie Dawson (2003) to Jason Andrews
 Matt Harden (2004) to Lindsay Carnes
 Allison Hardy (2004) to Joseph Cali
 Charlotte Smallwood (2004) to Shannon Scott
 Richard Tisdale (2004) to Jennings Shepard (2007)
 Allison Baulch (2005) to Matthew King
 La'Cherica Bragg (2005) to Marcus King
 Jeanne Prine (2006) to Christopher Perkins (2006)
 Leslie Williams (2006) to Mitch Thorn
 Danielle Gantt (2007) to Shaun Mitchell
 Jonathan Lee (2007) to Ashley Matherly
 Hayden Odom (2007) to Jay Kelley
 Adam Robinson (2007) to Shari Lynn
 Tacelyn Terry (2007) to Douglas Vaznaian
 Tiffany Thompson (2007) to Tyler Carrington
 Anna Walton (2007) to Adam Grace (2007)
 Hope Harden (2007) to Brian Kilpatrick

in remembrance

Troy University Alumni

1936-Mr. Henry McNeill
 1940-Ms. Bess Mizelle
 1946-Mrs. Billie Swain Layton
 1948-Ms. Eva Nell Seay Hearn
 1949-Mr. C. F. Roling
 1953-Mr. Guy M. Sullivan
 1955-Ms. Maurine Morgan Walker
 1959-Mr. Charles Jeffcoat
 1959-Ms. Mary Lou Shelley
 1963-Ms. Doris Perry Rhymer
 1964-Mr. Claud E. Conner
 1966-Ms. Linda Spears Childers
 1967-Mr. James Neal Newton
 1970-Mr. Billy Cannon
 1970-Mr. William B. Poole
 1971-Mr. Clifton P. Capell
 1972-Mrs. Sharon Benton

1972-Mr. James W. Darby
 1972-Mr. Homer L. Hite
 1973-Mr. James Paul Berta
 1973-Ms. Essie Vaughn Buskey
 1973-Ms. Jane L. Flowers
 1975-Mrs. Jocelyn Tunstall Harris
 1976-Mr. Joseph Dale Burdette
 1976-Mr. Ferris J. Hackleman
 1976-Mr. John J. Dyer
 1977-Mr. Edward H. Turek
 1978-Mrs. Thelma S. Morris
 1978-Miss Julia G Moseley
 1979-Mr. Dennis Folmar Bowden
 1980-Mr. Alan J. Schkloven
 1980-Mr. Rufus R. Woodley
 1982-Mr. Harvey Russell Ragan
 1982-Mr. Frank P. Scruggs
 1985-Ms. Kimberly Metz

1990-Mr. Rick Alan Vallancourt
 1990-Mrs. Mary R. Young
 1998-Mrs. Jane Varner
 2002-Mr. Russell Cameron
 Mr. Edward F. Dubose
 Mr. Willie Ruf

Troy University Friends

Mr. Anthony Ray Baker
 Ms. Barbara Blackmon
 Mrs. Shirley A. Brown
 Mr. Richard S. Gonzalez
 Mr. Joe Harris
 Ms. Ann Muscari
 Mrs. Waurie Sconyers
 Mr. Jim Vickery
 Mr. Rufus Wilson

promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Air Force.

Erica Newman (2003) of New Brockton has received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Auburn University's Harrison School of Pharmacy.

DaNean Pound (2003) has been named as an instructor of English at Enterprise-Ozark Community College.

Matt Clower (2004) was recently named news editor of The Troy Messenger newspaper. The Troy native is a former editor of The Tropolitan student newspaper.

Lezlie Arcia Griffin (2004) graduated in May from Tulane University Law School.

Demetris Battle (2005) was recently named head coach of the Barbour County Middle School football team.

Stephanie McDaniel (2005) has joined the staff of Anzalone Liszt Research as a project coordinator.

Starla Raiborn (2005) serves as Montgomery Area Nontraditional Equestrian's (MANE) Program Director, joining the MANE staff in January 2003. She is a Certified Special Olympics Equestrian Coach and has Level 1 certification through the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association. Raiborn is currently the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) Alabama State Representative and the Region V Representative for the Equine Facilitated Mental Health Association.

Russell Mann (2006) recently graduated from the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy. He is employed by the Ozark Police Department.

Share your latest achievements with members of your graduating class by submitting to the alumnotes section of the Troy University Magazine. Send your information to alumdev@troy.edu.

Tiny TROY fans



Future Trojan cheerleaders – Madeline and Danielle Rash and Caroline Taylor, grandchildren of TROY Head Football Coach Larry Blakeney and his wife, Janice.



TROY spirit – Five-year-old Nathaniel Page, nephew of TROY faculty member Carol Franks, models a t-shirt featuring the University's name in both English and Chinese. He is the son of Valerie (Franks' sister) and Bob Page.



Go Trojans! – Alexandria Mae Lett, born Aug. 15, appears ready to cheer on the Trojans with her "Go Trojans" outfit. Alexandria is the daughter of Rebecca Atchison Lett (2005) and her husband Todd.



Future Trojan – Nicolas Frazier dons a TROY hat and shirt to show off his Trojan spirit. He is the son of Chad (1998) and Marcela Frazier, members of the Greater Birmingham Alumni Chapter.



Gracie and the Coach – Troy University Football Coach Larry Blakeney holds Gracie Barner, daughter of Jenniffer and Robert Barner, during a recent Pike County Alumni Chapter event.