

chapter news

Setting the stage

Emerald Coast Alumni Chapter raises curtain on TROY through community theatre

By Torie Hardee

The Emerald Coast Alumni Chapter of Troy University set the stage on which several TROY alumni members and students performed during the Stage Crafters Community Theatre's March comedy "Sordid Lives."

TROY alumnus, Emerald Coast Alumni member and "Sordid Lives" director Ed Kelly found a way to infuse his hobby of theatrics in the Ft. Walton community with the University's benefit in mind. Kelley, who is on the executive boards of Stage Crafters Community Theatre and the Emerald Coast Alumni Chapter,

pitched the idea of allowing TROY Alumni the opportunity to design the play's set as a way of generating funds for scholarships.

The set design from "Sordid Lives" returned about \$600. "All the money we generate goes back to the University and is awarded to students through scholarships," Kelley said. The TROY alumnus explained that the project's opportunities expanded further than scholarship funds. "This type of opportunity always gives us a chance to bond within our alumni chapter. It also allows us to put Troy University's name in areas not otherwise reached."

Although TROY alumni have been participants in past Stage Crafters performances, Kelley said this is the first time the group has been drawn on as an alumni association. "If we continue this in the future, I would hope we could involve students from the Ft. Walton Site to allow them more of a well-rounded college experience," he said.

Pam Strecker, a 2007 spring graduate from TROY's Ft. Walton Site, did participate in "Sordid Lives" as the

stage manager. Other participation from TROY included alumnus Mike Wright Reynolds and his wife Marcia. Also in the cast, was Jane Judkins, the wife of Emerald Coast Alumni Chapter President Joe Judkins.

How does Kelley suggest alumni tie Troy University in with their community activities? "You look for things you enjoy, like bowling or softball, and involve your chapter. It then becomes something physical the community can see," he said. "Bubba Pinkard, a TROY Alumni Board member, used to say, 'If you have fun, the funds will follow.' We're trying to live up to that," Kelley added.

Kelley advised TROY alumni to get involved in a local chapter if they had not done so already. "It's a good support system and networking tool. If you don't have one, contact the University's Alumni Association and start one in your area," the alumnus said.

"It all comes down to being proud of that TROY tradition. I'm very thankful for the education I received at TROY. I'm very proud to say I was a Troy State alumnus and am now a Troy University alumnus," Kelley said.

Brunson family, Elba chapter endow scholarship

The Brunson family and Troy University's Elba Alumni Chapter have endowed the Edna Allen Brunson Scholarship to assist deserving students from the Elba area in attending TROY.

The scholarship was originally established in August, making it the first scholarship ever to be endowed by a TROY alumni group. The late J.R. Brunson, past chief executive officer and president of National Securities, helped fund the initial scholarship.

The Brunson family's additional gift will allow the scholarship to be renewable and also will fund an additional student each academic year.



From left to right are: Jack E. Brunson; Julie Parrish, president of TROY's Elba Alumni Chapter; Dr. Jean Laliberte; Edna Allen Brunson (seated); Faith Ward; Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr.; and Bubba Pinkard, member of the TROY Alumni Association Board.

Montgomery businessman Larry J. Hughes rides in Troy University's St. Paddy's Day Parade on March 10.



Larry Hughes receives University's Distinguished Leadership Award

Troy University has honored Montgomery businessman Larry J. Hughes with its Distinguished Leadership Award—TROY's most prestigious award for a graduate of the University.

Hughes received the award from TROY Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., March 10 at the annual Spring Reunion Dinner.

Hughes, a member of the class of 1972, is the eighth recipient of the award. The Distinguished Leadership Award was created to recognize the achievements of TROY alumni and friends who have distinguished themselves through exemplary work, philanthropy, leadership and service to their profession, community and alma mater.

In presenting the award, Chancellor Hawkins described Hughes as a model alumnus who supports his alma mater in many

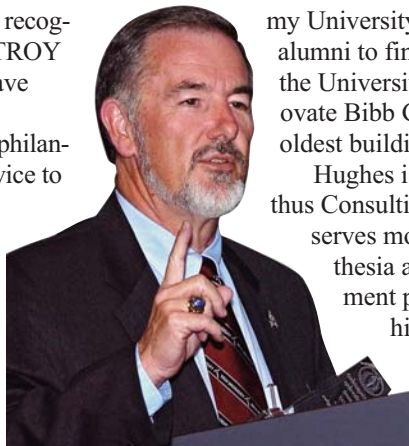
ways. Dr. Hawkins also cited Hughes for his business and personal successes.

"When you delve into the life of Larry Hughes, the picture that emerges is one of a successful businessman, an ethical community leader and a devoted family man," Dr. Hawkins said.

In accepting the award, Hughes told the more than 125 alumni attending the awards dinner that "anybody who knows me knows that I love my University." He urged alumni to financially support the University's efforts to renovate Bibb Graves Hall, the oldest building on campus.

Hughes is president of Icon Consulting (ICON), which serves more than 300 anesthesia and pain management practices. He and his wife, the former

Joanne Jordan, have two sons, Josh and Jay.



Dothan area alumni chapters merge

Two have officially become one with the merger of the Greater Wiregrass Area Troy University Alumni Association and the Troy University Alumni Association – Dothan Chapter. Previously, one group had consisted of Troy Campus graduates, while the other was made up of Dothan Campus alumni.

The new organization, which goes by the name Troy University Wiregrass Alumni Chapter, now serves all TROY graduates in the Alabama counties of Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston; Georgia counties of Early and Seminole; and Florida counties of Jackson and Holmes.

Shannon Collins, former president of the Greater Wiregrass Area Troy University Alumni Association, said the consolidation was sparked by the 2005 merger of the Troy University campuses.

"I'm excited about the One Great University concept that is now a reality," Collins said. "Now our two groups are coming together as One Great Alumni Association. We will benefit future graduates of TROY."

Both alumni associations had become well-known for their fundraising and generosity. Last year they distributed approximately \$18,000 in scholarships to students at the Troy and Dothan campuses.

Gayla White, former president of the Troy University Alumni Association – Dothan Chapter, said the consolidated association will continue to benefit students and the community.

"We have one common goal, one common purpose," White said. "Everybody wanted to do this so we can give out more scholarships."

Leaders of the organization met in early February to approve a new constitution and work out details associated with the merger. The organization will hold its annual meeting in March to elect officers.