

# torchlight

Troy University News



**Dr. Doug Hawkins** speaks immediately following the unveiling of a commemorative marker in honor of his late wife with members of his family looking on in the background. From left to right are Dr. Hawkins, Holly Hawkins Anderson, Dr. Robert Hawkins, Greg Anderson, Melanie Hawkins, Martha Lynn Hawkins Drinkard and Jim Drinkard.

## A fitting tribute

Chi Omega dedicates Rachel Youngblood Hawkins House

The late Rachel Y. Hawkins of Troy, AL, was honored March 10 with the dedication of the Chi Omega House on the Troy University Campus in her memory.

Approximately 100 people from the University community, including active and alumnae sisters of the Iota Kappa Chapter of Chi Omega sorority, were on hand for the ceremony, which included the unveiling of a commemorative marker on the lawn of the house.

Tributes to Mrs. Hawkins were presented by Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor of Troy University; Janice Hawkins, Troy University first lady; the Honorable Lamar Higgins, TROY trustee; JoEllyn Sullivan, Chi Omega National Officer; and Sherry Starling of Troy, AL, President of the Iota Kappa House Corporation.

In closing remarks, Dr. Doug Hawkins, Mrs. Rachel Hawkins' hus-

band and president pro tem of the Troy University Board of Trustees, thanked the University and the women of Chi Omega for honoring his late wife. Mrs. Rachel Hawkins died Sept. 10, 2006.

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., said TROY owes a great debt to Dr. Doug and Rachel Hawkins for their contributions to the Greek System.

"In the life of a university, there are only a few leaders who play a pivotal role in the development of the institution," Chancellor Hawkins said. "Mrs. Rachel Hawkins was such a leader. It is not an exaggeration to say that Doug and Rachel

Hawkins were the parents of the Greek System at Troy University."

Mrs. Rachel Hawkins was instrumental in the chartering of the Iota Kappa Chapter in 1976 and served as personnel advisor to the chapter for 22 years. She and Alice Walters, who

served as financial officer for the chapter, will be honored with portraits that will hang in the house. Mrs. Walters was a special guest at the dedication ceremony.

In addition, Dr. Jean Laliberte, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development, announced the establishment of a scholarship to honor Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Walters.



## TROY students reach out to tornado-stricken Enterprise

*By Clif Lusk*

Five days after returning from an aid mission to Enterprise, AL, TROY junior Nicole Nicholas was still peeling dead skin from blisters on her hands.

Looking wistfully at the floor, she recalled what she witnessed in the Wiregrass city of about 23,000.

"Absolute devastation. It was – indescribable," she said. "I've never seen anything like that before."

Just before 1 p.m. on March 1, an EF3 tornado slammed into portions of the city causing nine deaths, injuring 121 people and leaving much of the city's core in shambles. The worst hit: Enterprise High School where eight students died – one the brother of a TROY track and field athlete.

The twister cut a quarter-mile wide swath of destruction through the downtown area, damaging or destroying at least 370 homes. President George W. Bush declared the area a major disaster area on March 3.

Nicholas, a broadcast journalism and public relations double major from Millbrook, was one of 58 students from TROY to volunteer their services in Enterprise the following Saturday. In this group were members of the Student Government Association and the Baptist Campus Ministries – in addition to Nicolas' own Troy University Habitat for Humanity chapter. They even drafted members of the Charles Henderson High School baseball squad to help.

"There was this one house – a two story – and it looked like a Barbie Doll house," Nicholas said. "It was just split open like the play houses are. We went to the house and the lady was coming

down the stairs – it was so weird because you looked up and there was just sky."

For the Habitat volunteer, there wasn't any question about going to the aid of others.

"Our job is to help the community ... that's what we're in it for. I look at it as if it had happened to me, I would want somebody to help, so I put myself in their place."

"A smile or a helping hand would do so much in a time like that," she said.

Another group to spring into action from TROY was College of Health and Human Services students. Five senior nursing students took the initiative to help – three working the emergency department at Enterprise Medical Center and two assisting in triage at Enterprise City Hall.

Dr. Amanda Andrews, assistant professor of athletic training education, organized athletic training students to assist in clean up efforts the Sunday after the storm struck, and the Kinesiology and Health Promotion Club challenged all students in the college in a donations drive.

The annual Greek Week Blood Drive, already scheduled before the tornado, was quickly reorganized for the benefit of tornado victims across Alabama, and even the International Student Cultural Organization produced copies of the ISCO Cookbook with donations headed for storm relief.

Chi Omega sorority sisters took a slightly longer-range view of assistance. They organized a prom dress



drive so that students at Enterprise High School would be sure to have a prom. Three Army ROTC cadets have been activated with their Alabama National Guard units to assist in the recovery operation there.

Support, too, has come from the academic side of the University. As a central player in Gov. Bob Riley's Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators & Students Statewide program, the University has laid the groundwork to assist EHS students in getting back to their studies via distance learning.

Reba Davis, TROY's ACCESS director, said that assistance would most likely be aimed at students injured in the storm who would not be able to re-join more traditional classes.

At the same time, provisions have been made to provide computers and training to EHS teachers to facilitate the online courses in case a broader implementation for ACCESS is needed.

TROY's Small Business Development Center, said Sorrell College of Business Interim Dean Dr. Don Hines, is engaged with the U.S. Small Business Administration and will be on-site with SBA in the disaster area.

*Lusk is a university relations coordinator.*



Far left, TROY student Nicole Nicholas from Millbrook surveys the damage caused by the March 1 tornado that struck Enterprise, AL. At left, eight Enterprise High School students died when the twister struck the school. Above, Tyler Gresham was among the 58 TROY students to volunteer their services in Enterprise the Saturday following the storm.



**Legislative breakfast.** Troy University held its annual Legislative Breakfast on March 15 on the University's Montgomery Campus. Front row from left to right: Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor; the Honorable Gerald Dial, member of the TROY Board of Trustees; Dr. Doug Patterson, senior vice chancellor for administration; Rep. Alan Boothe of Troy; Marcus Paramore, director of government relations; Faith Ward, director of alumni affairs; Sen. Wendell Mitchell of Luverne; and Dr. Cameron Martindale, senior vice chancellor for advancement and external relations. Second row are Rep. Mac Gipson of Prattville and Speaker of the House Seth Hammett of Andalusia. Third row: Rep. Gerald Allen of Tuscaloosa. Fourth row, Tom Coker, TROY government relations consultant, and Rep. David Grimes of Montgomery. Fifth row, Rep. DuWayne Bridges of Valley and Rep. Greg Wren of Montgomery. Sixth row, Rep. Cam Ward of Alabaster and Rep. Billy Beasley of Clayton. Seventh row, Rep. Warren Beck of Geneva and the Honorable Allen Owen, member of the TROY Board of Trustees.

## Enrollment climbs by 4 percent

Troy University's worldwide enrollment topped 28,000 for the first time in the University's history for fall term 2006, marking a 4 percent increase over fall term 2005, according to University officials.

The final headcount enrollment for fall 2006 was 28,255 students, compared to 27,104 enrolled worldwide for fall term 2005. The increase on the Troy Campus mirrored the worldwide numbers, as enrollment was up more than 5 percent.

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor of Troy University, said the increased enrollment for this fall continues a pattern that reaches back over a decade.

"We were the fastest growing university in Alabama during the decade of the 1990s and I am pleased that our growth rate since 2000 has mirrored that trend," Dr. Hawkins said. "This is reflection of our commitment to provide high-quality academic programs and excellent student service."

## TROY pursues nursing doctorate

The Troy University Board of Trustees in November approved a resolution that clears the way for University officials to develop a doctorate in nursing practice.

In presenting the resolution, Executive Vice Chancellor

and Provost Ed Roach said the program responds to an American Association of Colleges and Nursing requirement that nurse practitioners, clinical nursing specialists, nurse anesthetists and nurse midwives hold the terminal degree in order to be nationally certified advanced practice nurses.

Roach said the next steps would involve approvals from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

University officials put the price tag for implementing the program at about \$350,000 – about half as costly as starting such a program from scratch.

## Chancellor to serve on board

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

Dr. Hawkins will serve a three-year term on the board, which develops and recommends policies for AASCU, a higher education association with a membership of more than 430 colleges, universities and systems of public higher education throughout the United States and its territories.

Members of the 16-person board are presidents or chancellors of their universities and are elected by the AASCU membership at the organization's annual meeting in November.

Dr. Hawkins has served one term as Chair of AASCU's International Committee.



At left, Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, president of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, speaks during the conference's closing session. Above, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, founding president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., and Dr. John Kline join hands with others for a moment of reflection during the opening session.

# Leadership by Design

**SACS president closes out annual Leadership Conference**

Today's African-American youth have limitless educational opportunities available to them and they should have a "network of people who care" making sure they take advantage of those opportunities.

That was the message Dr. Belle S. Wheelan delivered as the keynote speaker for the closing session of the sixth annual Leadership Conference Celebrating Black History Month, sponsored by the City of Troy and Troy University.

Dr. Wheelan is president of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. She is

the first black woman to lead SACS.

Dr. Wheelan urged conference attendees to get involved in their community schools.

"Learning is hard work, but ignorance is so much harder," she said, speaking Feb. 3.

Dr. Wheelan said children need to be engaged in the classroom and encouraged to ask questions.

"Students are afraid to ask questions for fear that they will look stupid," she said. "Let me tell you it's all right for them to be stupid coming in the classroom as long as they are not stupid when they go out."

## 'TROY for Troops' seeks public donations

Troy University's support program for members of the U.S. military is seeking public donations from across southeast Alabama to fill care packages for Trojans serving in combat theaters.

Called "TROY for Troops," the program is designed to identify and thank current students, alumni, faculty or staff members — or members of their immediate families — who are on active military duty. A special link to the University's Web site

([www.troy.edu](http://www.troy.edu)) includes a message to the troops from Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., accompanied by a form that Trojans in military service can complete to update their contact information. Trojans serving in combat zones as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom will be sent a special gift from the University.

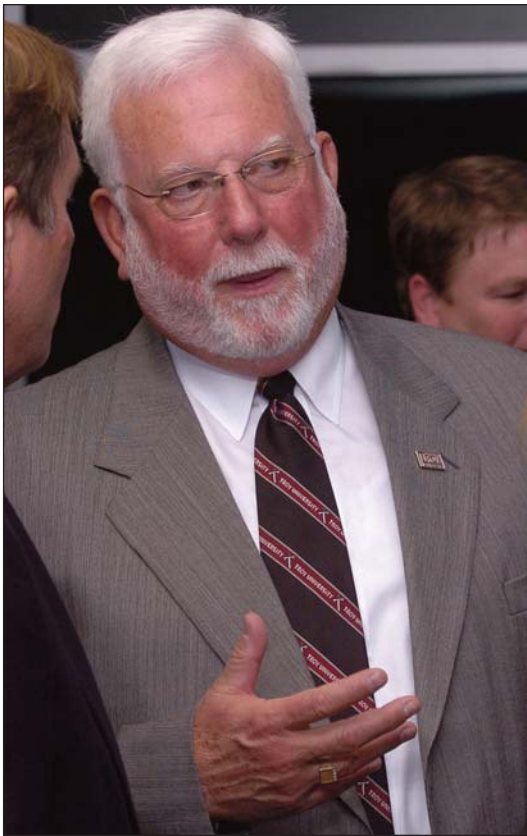
The program, led by Janice Hawkins, the University's first lady, began in October and more than 300 Trojans in the armed services, including 48 serving in combat zones, have responded to date.

Some of the items most requested by service personnel are: snacks and

non-perishable food items; undershirts (white, short sleeves); socks (boot cut in black, green or white); AT&T Global Pre-Paid Military Calling Cards; movie DVDs and music CDs (new or used, original only); paperback books/puzzle books; and sunglasses.

Drop-off sites are: the Troy Campus, the Office of Alumni Affairs, 100 Highland Avenue; the Dothan Campus, 103 Malone Hall; the Montgomery Campus, 201 Whitley Hall; and, the Phenix City Campus, the lobby of Adams Hall.

Any questions about donations may be directed to Barbara Patterson at 334-670-3204.



**Jimmy Gardner, a 1975 TROY graduate who is the new president of the Troy University Alumni Association, speaks with fellow alums during the Spring Reunion Dinner on March 10.**

# Alumni Leader

## Jimmy Gardner takes over reins of alumni association

*By Torie Hardee*

Jimmy Gardner, a 1975 Troy University graduate, has been elected to serve as the TROY Alumni Association president for the 2007 term.

Gardner, a State Farm Insurance agent, said he was surprised to have been elected President. "Sammy Carr, last year's Alumni Association president, asked me to serve as vice president during his term. At that time, I didn't know that by taking the office I would be next in line to become president," Gardner said.

He said he is honored to serve as president for TROY's Alumni Association. "It's a great honor, especially during the times of growth we're going through." The alumnus mentioned that his usage of the word growth included physical aspects of the campus, as well as growth in programs like TROY's Division 1-A football program.

"We are a big University now, and every facet of TROY has to learn how to grow. I think our association has got to grow," Gardner explained.

Gardner expressed an interest in increasing communications to alumni. Gardner said TROY's Alumni Association has faced challenges with graduates changing addresses or alumnae

changing names after marriage. "I would encourage TROY alumni to keep us updated on these changes," Gardner said. "Hopefully by increasing communication, we can involve more of the 100,000-plus TROY alumni."

Gardner now resides in Greenville and has three children: Josh, a Mississippi State graduate, who is now practicing veterinarian medicine; Caleb, an

athletic training graduate of TROY, who is currently in his senior year of UAB's optometry program; and Abbie Ballew, a biology graduate of TROY, who is teaching science at McKenzie High School.

*Hardee, a senior print journalism and public relations major from Chiefland, FL, is a workshop student in the Office of University Relations.*

### Hopper joins alumni affairs staff

Lindsay Hopper has joined Troy University's alumni affairs staff as membership and chapter development coordinator.

"One of our primary goals is to raise our alumni association membership and having Lindsay on board to focus on that is a tremendous benefit for us," said Faith Ward, alumni affairs director. "This additional position will also help us in our efforts to reach out and build relationships with the University's more than 106,000 alumni."

Hopper, a 2004 marketing graduate, said she is excited about the potential of her new position.

"We are a global University and have alumni throughout the world. This position has the potential to help us grow our association membership and maintain strong connections with our alumni."

