

Looking back



A student gets ready to enjoy a Coke from the cafeteria on the Phenix City Campus. The cafeteria was located on the current site of the campus' bookstore. The photo, thought to have been taken around 1979, was one of several commemorating the campus' early years that was displayed during the 30th anniversary celebration of the Phenix City Campus held in February at the Chattahoochie River Club in Columbus, GA.

alumnnotes

'60s

Judy Powe (1967) was the 2005 winner of the Palmer Prize honoring her for her "Outstanding Contributions to the Education of the Youth of Wilcox County." Mrs. Powe was selected because of the high praise given to her in essays students wrote to answer the question, "Who is the best teacher you have ever had?"

Kenneth L. Gardner (1968) is employed with Briggs Equipment, which is the largest Yale Lift Truck dealer in the United States, and he has been appointed as the General Manager

for South Alabama, Northwest Florida and South Mississippi.

Phyllis Parker Horne (1968) was selected "Teacher of the Year" for the State of Alabama by the Alabama Art Education Association.

Army Lt. Col. (ret.) Al Smith (1969) was inducted into the Golden Eagle Class of 2005 in the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The honor is bestowed upon citizens of Alabama who have contributed their time and talents to help others, especially in assisting the state's senior citizen population.

'70s

Sandy Armstrong (1971), the aerospace consultant for Troy University, has won the Wernher von Braun Educator of the Year Award from the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education, and the Christa McAuliffe National Aerospace Teacher of the Year from the Aerospace Education Foundation in Washington.

Thomas B. Solomon (1974) was recently named executive director of the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and

Development Commission.

Jerry W. Johnson (1978) was recently promoted to senior vice president of claims for Alfa Insurance. He and his wife Clara have two children, Will and Casey.

'80s

Jane Ellen Clark (1981) was recently named executive director of the Monroe County Heritage Museums. She holds a bachelor's degree from TROY.

Joseph G. Jarret (1981), County Attorney for Polk County, FL, recently received the Florida Bar's Legal Excellence in Writing Award, was named Risk Management Magazine's Author of the Year for 2005, published "Religious Displays on Public Property" in the Florida Bar Journal and lectured on behalf of the Florida Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Center on "Governmental Mediation."

William H. Ashburn (1982) has been with Georgia State Patrol for over 23 years and has

obtained the rank of Captain and is in charge of five Patrol Posts. He was just selected to be a member of the 13th Delegation of the "Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange Program" and had the privilege of a trip to Israel to observe their law enforcement challenges.

Bryan N. Kindred (1982), president/chief executive officer of DCH Health System in Tuscaloosa, AL, was recently awarded the Gold Medal of Excellence at the annual meeting of the Alabama Hospital Association. Kindred earned his Master of Business Administration from TROY.

Les Moreland (1982) has been named the new chief financial officer of Wiregrass Electric Cooperative. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in business/computer science and is currently working toward his Master of Business Administration.

Alabama Sen. Harri Anne Smith (1985) was recently named as the recipient of the

10th annual Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award in Dothan. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Carl C. Abercrombie (1986) has been promoted to Second Vice President at the IT Business Partnership Management Office with AFLAC in Columbus, GA.

Martha Wakefield (1986) and **Steve Wakefield (1987)** established a new venture called Legacy Business Partners. The firm provides CFO and Controller services to small and medium size businesses. Martha and Steve both have CPAs and advanced degrees. Combined, they have 35 years of financial management experience ranging from a "Big Four" accounting firm to venture capital start up organizations.

Gibson Vance (1987), a shareholder at Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis and Miles P.C., was recently elected parliamentarian of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. As parliamentarian, Vance will be one of six officers representing

Wingate named vice president

Alison Wingate (1999) has been named vice president of the Alabama Retail Association. In addition to management responsibilities, Wingate will lead the association's governmental relations activities in both the Alabama State Legislature and the United States Congress.

Wingate will also continue to direct the association's pub-

lic relations and member communications efforts.

Wingate joined the Alabama Retail Association in 2001 as communications director after serving as director of public relations with the Alabama Bankers Association. She was named director of governmental and public affairs in 2003.

Wingate holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from Troy University. She has served as government relations chair for the Alabama Council

of Association Executives and currently serves as chair of the Silent Auction Committee. She is a student at the U.S. Chamber Institute for Organization Management.

Wingate and her husband Jason live in Prattville.



the association's 60,000 members across the nation. He also is second vice president of the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association and president of the Montgomery Bar Association.

Florence Y. Brooks (1988), a certified public accountant and financial manager for the Western Area Power Administration of the U. S. Department of Energy, has been elected to the board of the Phoenix Birthing Project. This organization provides advocacy and support in identifying and obtaining prenatal care for African-American women.

Dr. Elizabeth Yost Hammer (1989), chair of the Department of Psychology at Loyola University New Orleans, has been elected along with three other psychologists as a Fellow of the American Psychological Association's Division Two, the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. She holds a bachelor's degree from TROY.

'90s

Scott Gamble (1990) recently opened a state-of-the-art dental clinic in Ashford, AL. He and his wife Sherry have two children.

Kenneth L. Jackson (1990), a Retail and Downtown Specialist with Whitney Commercial Real Estate, LLC in Asheville, NC, has been awarded the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation by the CCIM Institute. The CCIM designation is awarded to commercial real estate professionals upon completion of a graduate-level curriculum and attainment of a level of qualifying experience.

Dr. Kenneth Tanner (1991) has had his book *Educational Facilities Planning: Leadership, Architecture and Management* published by Allyn and Bacon. Tanner is a member of the faculty of engineering at the University of Georgia and assists his mother in managing the family farm in Covington County, AL.

A stand-up alumna

By Torie Hardee

Comedienne Lynne Koplitz has hosted a national TV show, has been a regular on the stages of New York City comedy clubs and has rubbed elbows with many celebrities, but it was her return to her alma mater to speak to incoming students last fall that ranks as one of the highlights of her life.

"Riding in a limo with (singer) Lenny Kravitz was fun, but the highlight of my year was coming to TROY to speak. I was very honored," said Koplitz, who received her bachelor's degree in theatre arts in 1989.

Koplitz said she was influenced in the direction of acting by some of her professors, including Dr. David Dye and Mr. and Mrs. William Hicks.

"I always felt like I was going to pursue an acting career, but I didn't know how it was going to happen," said Koplitz.

Koplitz landed her first acting job at the East Tennessee State Company Theatre in Knoxville. From Knoxville, Koplitz moved first to Atlanta and then Nashville to act in



Speaking to incoming TROY students is a career highlight for comedienne Lynne Koplitz

smaller theatres.

At 28 years old, Koplitz was off to New York City with the aid of \$10,000 her mother had saved for her.

“I lived in New York for eight months. During this period were the most trying times of my career, but also the most exciting times of my life,” said Koplitz, noting that she slept on friends’ couches while looking for a job and a place of her own. “I had an interview for a day job as an ad-editor for a commercial production company. I had no idea what an ad-editor was suppose to do, but I needed the money, so I decided to go into the interview and do what I did know how to do: act like I knew what to do,” Koplitz said.

Koplitz must have been a convincing actress because the company hired her with no previous experience. For about three weeks, Koplitz would let her work pile up during the day and then would call someone to talk her through the processes of ad-editing after everyone had left the office.

“I really struggled, but I knew God was with me,” said Koplitz.

Koplitz said a pivotal moment in her life was the day two of her best girlfriends showed up at her apartment with two pages listing every comedy club in New York City.

“We want you to be a comedienne, Lynne,” they told her. Inspired by her friends’ faith in her, Koplitz picked a club and a date to perform at an open mic night and began practicing her five minute stand-up act.

The big night came and she decided to throw out everything she had worked on, and she spoke about her cat instead.

Koplitz’s debut proved she had an instinctive knack for stand-up comedy, so she decided to perform at a

During her visit, TROY alumna Lynne Koplitz presents Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. with a check for \$750 to purchase a tree for the Alumni Quad project.



“bringer show,” in which she traded 10 minutes of stand-up comedy for the 10 paying guests she had brought to the show.

Immediately following the performance, club owner Susie Essman offered Koplitz a job as a comedienne in her club. Essman told Koplitz she would represent her if she saw progression in the comedienne’s raw talent.

After six months of working as an ad-editor by day and an aspiring comedienne at night, Koplitz auditioned for both Saturday Night Live and the Montreal Comedy Festival. NBC saw one of these auditions and offered Koplitz a six-figure deal. She began with NBC as the host of the TV show, *Change of Heart*.

Since then Koplitz has been a guest host on *How to Boil Water*, a co-host of *Life and Style* and has made an appearance on a half hour Comedy Central Special, *Comedy Central Presents Lynne Koplitz*.

Koplitz still does stand-up in many clubs in New York and has recently performed at a benefit with fellow comedians including: Chris Rock, Wanda Sykes and Colin Quinn.

For the time being, Koplitz is working on an HBO special. She also said she is hopeful the future will hold more opportunities to work with VH1 and maybe even developing a sitcom.

Denese Culbreth (1992) was recently named a principal of the firm Jackson Thornton. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a member of the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants. She and her husband Mike reside in Dothan, AL, with their daughter Brooke.

Dwayne Bowman (1994) was recently named mortgage originator with SunSouth Bank's new Enterprise branch. He is married to the former

Delisa Mitchell of Elba and the couple has a son.

Rosemary Ragle (1996) is the University of Connecticut women's basketball team's trainer. She is now in her seventh year as an athletic trainer for the Huskies. She is well-known and respected for her compassion and commitment to the team.

Brian L. Smith (1996) has joined the Bank of Wedowee, where he will

be responsible for the internal audit department.

Brandy Woodham (1997) of Enterprise, AL, was recently promoted to corporate office manager at Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union. She and her husband Arnold have two sons - Trent and Trevor.

Darlene R. Wright (1997) was one of the ten new additions to Birmingham-Southern College's fac-

Best of both worlds

Family's encouragement spurs Arne to gain 'true college experience'

By **Andy Ellis**

When it comes to her college education, Lisa Arne has experienced the best of both worlds. The new Troy University graduate began work toward her degree in computer science via the University's eCampus program from her home in Cannon Falls, MN, and finished her college career as a student on the Troy Campus.

Arne, who graduated in December, said her husband Gary and her daughters Jennifer and Allison encouraged her to finish her degree on campus to "gain the true college experience."

"I liked distance learning. It worked well for me, but it was tough," said Arne. "For me it was a lot easier to learn in the classroom. I am glad I got to experience both."

Arne served 13 years as the secretary to the superintendent of schools in the Cannon Falls area before becoming "burned out." She was familiar with TROY and decided to pursue a degree.

"We've spent a fair amount of time around Fort Rucker," Arne said, noting that her husband is an Army instructor pilot. "We had vacationed

in Fort Walton Beach several times; and during one of those trips, I checked on available classes. We eventually plan to end up back in this area. We have bought some land in Bonifay, FL, and I wanted a degree from a university that would be recognizable and respected in this area. I enrolled through distance learning in March 2003 and took a few classes."

Arne enrolled on the Troy

Campus in Spring 2004.

"I was so nervous and scared," Arne said of her arrival in Troy, "but I really fell in love with the campus and the town. Everybody treated me so nicely. The professors were generally interested in how I was doing. I just saw a lot of interest being shown toward the individual student."

Arne has enjoyed her college experience. "TROY has a lot to offer its students, and I have really enjoyed my time here."

Arne's family was on hand to watch her walk across stage and receive her diploma in December.

"It will be great to have her back home, but I am glad she got this opportunity," her husband Gary said. "I believe that it is something she will look back on with pride."



Arne catches up on some family time with her husband Gary, her daughters and her grandson.

ulty for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Monte McGougin (1998) was recently named police chief for the city of Brewton, AL. The Brewton native received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and began his law enforcement career with the city of Troy Police Department.

Ashley Meadows (1999) recently attained her CPA certification. She has been employed with Ferguson, Sizemore and Associates for the past three years and is a member of the Alabama Society of CPAs, the American Institute of CPAs and a former treasurer of the Dothan Service League. Meadows lives in Dothan with her son Justin.

'00s

Bo Clark (2000) was recently presented with this year's Marketing and Communications Award due to his philanthropic efforts.

Rick Soria (2000), the Aviation Coordinator for the Choctawhatchee Aviation Institute in Fort Walton Beach, FL, was chosen as the Air Force Association Aerospace Teacher of the Year for the State of Florida. He was also selected for a Florida Space Research Institute sponsored zero-G flight at the Kennedy Space Center.

Barbara Sherwood (2000), a former softball coach for Troy University, was named Assistant Softball Coach at the University of Wisconsin.

Carrie Fifarek (2003) was recently named manager of the Lake Wedowee Branch of First State Bank. She holds a bache-

Running the race

TROY family members throw hats into political ring

Editor's note: At press time, major-party qualifying in Alabama had not ended, so there may be some Trojans qualifying for state office omitted from this article.

As Alabama prepares for another major election season in 2006, several members of the Troy University family are preparing for runs for political office.

Trojans on the statewide ballot include Attorney General **Troy King**, who was appointed to his position in 2004.

King has served as a member of the staffs of Governors Bob Riley and Fob James and has served four years as an assistant attorney general.

Wes Allen, who earned his master's degree in education from TROY, has qualified to seek the Republican nomination for state auditor. The son of a member of the Alabama Legislature, Allen is also a member of the Troy University Athletics Department staff, serving as co-director of development.

Board of Education

Betty Peters, who represents the 2nd District on the Alabama Board of Education, was elected in 2003 on the GOP ticket. She has announced intentions to seek re-election.

State Senate

Gerald Dial of Lineville has qualified to run for his seventh term in the Senate, representing the 13th District.

Jimmy Holley is seeking his third term in the Senate representing the 31st District. The Elba lawmaker also served two terms in the House of Representatives.

Hank Erwin of Montevallo is expected to seek re-election to his 14th District seat. Sen. Erwin, a Republican, was elected in 2002.

Sundra Escott of Birmingham has represented the 20th District in the State Senate since 1983, following a career in the State House that began in 1981.

"Walking" Wendell Mitchell of Luverne, has announced plans to seek his seventh term in the Senate as a Democrat.

Harri Anne Smith of Slocomb had announced in 2005 plans to run for the Republican nomination for governor. Smith withdrew from the race in early 2006, however, and announced plans to seek re-election to the 29th Senate District, a seat she has held since 1998.

State House

Warren Beck of Geneva, who represents the 87th Legislative District, has established his campaign for re-election.

Billy Beasley of Clayton, who was elected in 1998 to the 84th District as a Democrat, will seek re-election.

Alan Boothe of Troy is seeking his third term representing the 89th District as a Democrat.

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Legislative breakfast. Troy University held its annual legislative breakfast in January on the University's Montgomery Campus. TROY officials outlined to the legislators the University's agenda for the upcoming session.



Chunlan and Lin Yu

TROY 1-2-1 graduate marries, returns to pursue graduate degree

Chunlan and Lin Yu were married in a ceremony on Dec. 28, and now have enrolled in Troy University to pursue graduate degrees.

Chunlan, a recent 1-2-1 graduate, and Lin will both pursue Master of Business Administration degrees.

The 1-2-1 Sino-American Joint-Degree Program allows students from partner universities in China to attend their freshman and senior years at their home universities while spending their sophomore and junior years studying on the Troy Campus. Upon graduation, the students receive diplomas from both Troy University and their home university in China.



lor's degree in business administration.

James Anthony Sneed (2003) was recently selected as general manager of the Limestone County Water Authority. Sneed holds a master's degree in management from TROY.

Christine Carone (2005) was recently named the 2006-2007 Glynn County (GA) Teacher of the Year. By virtue of the award, Carone will compete for Georgia Teacher of the Year honors. She received her Master of Education degree in July 2005.

Sharing your latest news with former classmates has never been easier. Go to the "Alumni and Friends" link at www.troy.edu to fill out your latest personal or professional information online. We also want your feedback on Troy University Magazine. Share your comments, suggestions or story ideas by email at aellis@troy.edu or by phone at 334-670-3196.

weddings & engagements

Richard Penton (1973) to Betty Jo Davis on October 22, 2005
 Stacy L. Williamson (1994) to Tammy Jowers on October 15, 2005
 Burt Pitts (1995) to Kelly E. Langford (2001) on April 9, 2005
 Allen E. Owen IV (1996) to Elizabeth Jennings (2003) on July 16, 2005
 Eric Jay Bray (1996) to Misty Bates on November 29, 2005
 Bruce W. Cooper (1998) to Amy Mixon on October 8, 2005
 Stephanie Krug (1998) to Patrick Johnston (2005) on June 25, 2005
 Chad Payne (1999) to Jamie Alys Long (2004) on July 30, 2005
 Wendy Paul (1999) to Kirk Neal on October 7, 2005
 Chris Vucovich (2000) to Carol Reese on April 30, 2005
 Heather Dykema (2000) to Hunter Owen on November 12, 2005
 Jessica Davenport (2000) to Benton Howell on August 20, 2005
 Tanya Willnecker (2000) to Hall Bolinger on November 13, 2005
 Alison Thornton (2001) to John Craddock on November 5, 2005
 Debbie Odom (2001) to Brock Houghton on September 3, 2005
 James (Ryan) Shirley (2001) to Jennifer Ullrich on June 25, 2005
 Joni L. Smith (2001) to Justin Jones on November 19, 2005
 Matthew Armbruster (2001) to Amanda Montgomery on July 9, 2005
 Michael Cadwell (2001) to Kathleen Clements (2002) on October 22, 2005
 Nick Sideris (2001) to Gaye Weldon on September 10, 2005
 Sheri Hamiter (2001) to Josh Ransome on September 17, 2005
 Christina McCollister (2002) to Josh Broadway on June 11, 2005
 Stephanie Bailey (2002) to Brandon Faulk on December 10, 2005
 Becky Buchanan (2003) to Brad Smith on November 6, 2004
 Hunter Rolling (2003) to Emily Bryan (2005) on January 21, 2006
 Jarvis Lynn (2003) to Jack Bennett on July 14, 2005
 John-Paul Werner (2003) to Grissy Almaroad on December 3, 2005
 Lanie Caroline Steube (2003) to Craig Brazell on January 14, 2005
 Laurie Sears (2003) to Danny Kelly (2003) on May 28, 2005
 Whitney Vickers (2003) to Jon Dyer on September 17, 2005
 Katie Holloway (2004) to Brock Johnson on October 15, 2005
 LeAnn S. Judah (2004) to Josh McLendon on November 26, 2005
 Mary Harrell (2004) to David Myers on July 16, 2005
 Stephanie Jackson (2004) to Joseph Johnson on August 13, 2005
 Amanda Glover (2005) to Jeff Killingsworth on July 16, 2005
 Jennifer Duke (2005) to Karl Bryant on January 21, 2006
 Kara Parker (2005) to Drew Danner on July 30, 2005
 Kerry Lang (2005) to Lance Wilson on January 21, 2006
 Matthew J. Smith (2005) to Margaret Melzer on May 28, 2005
 Paul Edward Evans (2005) to Heather Foler on July 23, 2005

chapter news

Alumni leaders. Sarah Pool of the Southwest Alabama Chapter and Jeff Vreeland of GoTroyTrojans.com listen to a discussion during the Chapter Leadership Conference held February 4 at TROY. More than 20 leaders from local chapters attended informational sessions on topics ranging from athletics to music to enrollment management. Participants also received a tour of the University bookstore and heard from manager Shawn Janelle about Barnes and Noble's plan for expanding and improving the bookstore.



The **Southwest Alabama Alumni Chapter** hosted a small Family Tailgate Party prior to the TROY vs. South Alabama basketball game on January 7.

The Southwest Alabama Chapter meets annually to organize social events and raise money for scholarships to deserving area students.

The chapter is dedicated to supporting and bringing awareness of TROY's academic and athletic programs to the local community. The Chapter has recently adopted the motto: "Camaraderie, Scholarship and Charity."

in remembrance

Troy University Alumni

1930 – Mr. Ethon E. Gaither
1934 – Mr. William T. McNeil
1938 – Mrs. Elsie H. Blount
1939 – Ms. Lois B. Massey
1945 – Ms. Dorothy Smith Moore
1946 – Mrs. Evelyn M. Rangeley
1946 – Dr. James C. Wilkes, Jr.
1948 – Mr. Ned Young
1949 – Ms. Opal H. Ganey
1949 – Mr. Warren L. Jones
1950 – Mr. Guy Henry Wilkes
1951 – Mr. John E. Waters
1954 – Ms. Joyce G. Nolen
1956 – Mr. Thomas H. Dean
1958 – Mr. Dan H. King
1958 – Mr. Jerry T. Hartley, Sr.
1964 – Mr. Gherlin J. McDaniel
1965 – Ms. Gloria E. Smith
1968 – Mr. John Gillespie
1970 – Mr. Joe W. Bruner
1970 – Mr. John W. Lisenby
1970 – Mr. Rodney A. Lurie

1970 – Mr. Walter W. Harrison
1971 – Lt. Col. Daniel E. Skutack
1972 – Mr. Johnnie L. Boswell
1972 – Col. Rodney A. Skoglund
1974 – Miss Flora N. Paulk
1978 – Mrs. Jane F. Paul
1978 – Mrs. Jean F. Lufkin
1978 – Mrs. Margaret B. Little
1979 – Mr. E. G. Smitherman, Jr.
1979 – Mr. Mack R. Wood
1983 – Mr. Elvie T. Blackmon
1984 – Mr. Alan B. Bishop
1984 – Mr. Billy Spillers
1987 – Mrs. Teresa M. Bailey
1987 – Mr. Wilford W. Moran
1989 – Mr. Lawrence C. Thomas
2000 – Mr. Phillip M. Burk

Troy University Friends

Mrs. Margene Armstrong
Dr. Robert F. Powers
Mrs. Elizabeth Stanley
Mr. Jimmy Thompson

Running the race

Continued from Page 29

William Thigpen of Fayette will seek re-election to the 16th District seat. A Democrat, Thigpen was first elected in 1998.

Connie Hudson, a member of the Mobile City Council, has announced her intentions to seek the District 34 seat as a Republican.

Cam Ward of Alabaster has announced plans to seek re-election in the GOP primary for District 49. He was first elected in 2002.

The following members of the TROY family had not announced as of press time.

DuWayne Bridges of Valley, a Republican, represents the 38th District. He was first elected in 2000.

Spencer Collier of Mobile was elected in 2002 to the 105th District post. He is a Republican.

Joe Carothers was elected in 1974 as a Democrat to the District 86 post representing Houston County.

Randy Davis, a Republican from Daphne, was elected in 2002 to represent the 96th District.

Mac Gipson of Prattville was elected in 1994 to represent the 88th District as a Republican.

Todd Greeson of Ider, represents the 24th District. He was elected on the GOP ticket in 1998.

David Grimes of Montgomery was elected as the representative of the 73rd District in 2002. He is a Republican.

Seth Hammett of Andalusia, the House Speaker, represents the 92nd District.