

Investing in the lives of Students

Scholarships open doors to educational opportunities

By Andy Ellis



In 1996, Troy University alumni Amy and Eric Guttensohn did something that only two other families had done in recorded history – celebrate the birth of all-male quintuplets.

The historic birth that occurred 100 years after the only other known set of U.S.-born, all-male quintuplets set off a wave of excitement and generosity throughout the state of Alabama.

Troy University was among those to step forward to assist the Montgomery, AL, couple that suddenly found themselves in the international spotlight. The Troy University Alumni Association established a scholarship for the five Guttensohn boys, ensuring that all have the opportunity to receive a college education.

The Guttensohn five, now nine years old, “love” trips to the Troy Campus, said their mother Amy, a 1991 TROY graduate. Her husband Eric received his master’s degree from TROY in 1996.

“We went to the Homecoming game, and the boys just really had a great time being there on campus,” Guttensohn said. “I loved my time at TROY. I feel like I really grew spiritually while I was in school. I was active in Campus Outreach’s Beach Project, which was very meaningful to me, and I also was a member of the Kappa Delta sorority.”

Scholarships provide opportunities

While most families don’t have to worry with putting five children through college at the same time, scholarships

can often provide opportunities for deserving students that otherwise might not be available.

In 2004-05, the Troy University Financial Aid Department disbursed more than \$18.3 million in scholarship funds, according to the Department’s annual report. Of that total, more than \$7.5 million came directly from academic, athletic and non-athlete scholarships, grants and grants in aid awarded by the University, as well as endowed scholarships through the Troy University Foundation.

Troy University students can also benefit from the State of Alabama’s Collegiate License Plate program, which provides proceeds from the sale of collegiate car tags to fund college scholarships.

Car tag purchase yields scholarship funds

Troy University has taken part in the Collegiate License Plate program since 1992 and recently unveiled a new car tag design. The new tag was only the third new design since the University’s participation began.

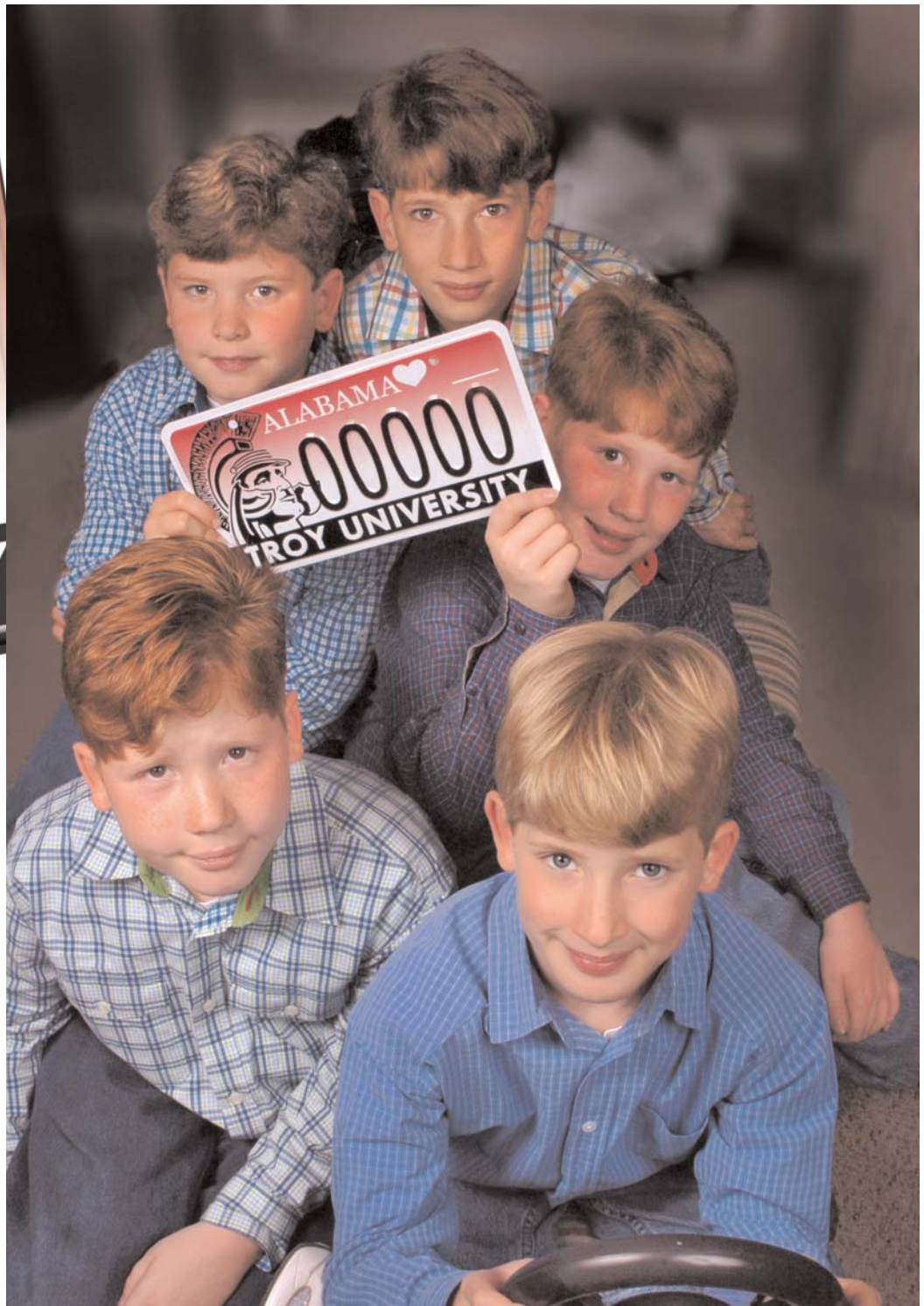
The new design, brought about after the Board of Trustee’s voted to drop the word “State” from the University’s name, features the Trojan head logo and five characters that may be personalized.

Collegiate tags cost the purchaser \$50 over and above the normal taxes and fees. Of that \$50, about \$48 goes back to the University and is placed in a Trojan Pride Scholarship fund.

Since 1994, TROY has received nearly \$600,000 in rev-



Above, sales of the new Troy University car tag helps provide funds for scholarships. At right, the Guttensohn quintuplets of Montgomery, AL, display the new tag. The Guttensohns, only the third known set of all-male quintuplets in the world, were born in 1996 to two TROY alums, Amy and Eric Guttensohn. The Alumni Association established scholarships for the five at the time of their historic birth.



enue from the collegiate tag program. This revenue funds scholarships for students on the University's four Alabama campuses.

In addition to the tag scholarships, the University is using a portion of the funding to build a Legacy Scholarship fund.

Troy University Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., said the program is important because of the opportunities it affords deserving students.

"The purchase of Troy University car tags is one way Alabamians can help students realize their goals," Dr. Hawkins said. "These scholarships can open educational doors to deserving students that might otherwise be closed."

Faith Ward, director of Alumni

Affairs for TROY, said she had received numerous inquiries about the new tag.

"I am thrilled that the new car tag is now available for purchase in local Department of Motor Vehicles offices throughout the state. Alumni frequent-

ly asked about the availability of the tag so I know they will be pleased as well," Ward said. "The car tag program provides an excellent way for alumni to show pride in their university while giving much needed scholarships to deserving students."

To learn more about Troy University's new car tag, contact the Alumni Affairs Office at (334) 670-3318 or your county Department of Motor Vehicles. To learn more about endowed scholarships, contact the Office of Development at 334-670-3608 or click the "Giving to TROY" link at www.troy.edu.