



# TROY TODAY

*A look inside Troy University for faculty and staff*

**December 7, 2006**

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## Topping 28,000

### TROY sees 4 percent rise in student enrollment in fall term

Troy University's worldwide enrollment topped 28,000 for the first time in University 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 is 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 in Troy was up more

than 5 percent.

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. 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 a reflection of our commitment to provide high-quality academic programs and excellent student service."

The enrollment growth affirms that recruitment efforts are paying off, according to Dr. John Schmidt, senior vice chancellor for student services. He said the potential for future growth is also promising.

"We have an aggressive, effective team in enrollment management that is dedicated to telling the Troy University story—and not just in Alabama," Dr. Schmidt said. "We have been

**See GROWTH, Page 3**

## *University moving forward with nursing practice doctorate*

The Troy University Board of Trustees on Nov. 18 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.

"Without national certification, our graduates will not be able to practice," Roach told trustees.

By 2015, according to Roach, **See DOCTORATE, Page 3**



**Going bowling.** Troy University head football Coach Larry Blakney addresses Trojan fans and the media on Wednesday during a press conference and pep rally announcing the Trojans' participation in the Dec. 22 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. With Saturday's win over Florida International, the Trojans won the Sun Belt Conference Championship and the automatic bid to the bowl game. TROY will take on the Rice Owls of Conference USA. Kickoff for the game is set for 7 p.m. and the game will be televised on ESPN2. Tickets for the game are \$40 and are currently on sale. To order tickets or for more information, contact the ticket office at (334) 670-3681 or toll free 1-877-878-9467.

*We want to hear from you!*

*Tell us what you would like to read about in the TROY Today newsletter. Send your ideas or submit your articles and photos by e-mail at [aellis@troy.edu](mailto:aellis@troy.edu), by fax at 334-670-3274 or by phone at 334-670-3196.*

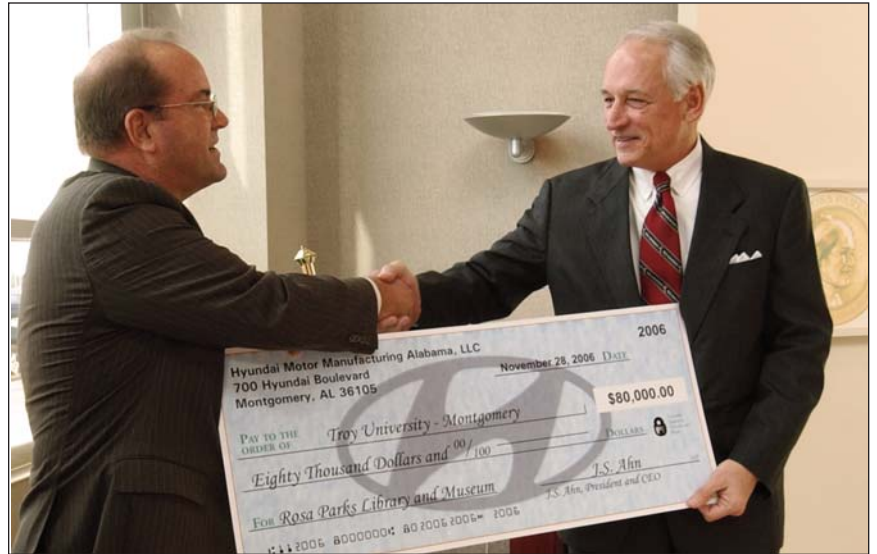
# Hyundai presentation

Donation to fund bronze plaques depicting events of Montgomery Bus Boycott

**H**undai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, LLC (HMMA) delivered an \$80,000 contribution to Troy University on Wednesday to fund an exciting new project at the Rosa Parks Library and Museum and the Rosa Parks Children's Wing. Ten bronze plaques, measuring 36 inches in diameter, will present a visual story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a major historical event in Montgomery's history. They will be permanently located on exterior walls on the front of the Museum and Children's Wing, allowing passersby and guests the opportunity to view a thumbnail sketch of this historical Civil Rights event. The donation is a continuation of HMMA's support for community, education and diversity.

"The Rosa Parks Library and Museum and Rosa Parks Children's Wing are two of the most beautiful museums in the South," stated J. S. Ahn, President and CEO of HMMA. "These landmarks represent an important part of Alabama's history and pay tribute to one of the state's greatest legacies. We are pleased to partner with Troy University in this significant project."

"Troy University has developed a world-class museum honoring one of Alabama's true heroes," said Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor of Troy University. "Hyundai's generosity will



**Hyundai's Richard Neal presents a check for \$80,000 to Troy University Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. during a ceremony on Wednesday. The donation will fund 10 bronze plaques depicting events of the Montgomery Bus Boycott that will hang on the outside of the Rosa Parks Library and Museum and Children's Wing in Montgomery.**

further enhance the museum's mission of telling the remarkable story of Mrs. Parks. This is good news for the City of Montgomery and Troy University."

Troy University's Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and External Relations, Dr. Cameron Martindale, remarked, "Our advancement program at Troy University is conducted with one primary goal in mind—to ensure that academic excellence comes first in all that we do, whether it's in the

classroom or in our wonderful museum."

The artwork for the initial roundels was designed by a local high school student, Winfred Hawkins. He has been recognized for his portrait of Mrs. Parks, presented to her at the dedication ceremony on December 1, 2000. Hawkins is an exceptionally talented young artist, whose bronze-plaque designs depict the events of the Boycott in a unique, effective manner.

## *Chinese higher education officials visit TROY*

Top-ranking Higher education officials from the People's Republic of China recently visited Troy University as an official delegation to the sixth annual Sino-American 1-2-1 Dual Degree Program's annual convocation.

Some 156 students from mainland China currently attend TROY as part of the program, in which a student from China begins university at a home institution, transfers to TROY

for two years and returns to the home institution to complete studies. At commencement, the 1-2-1 graduate receives a degree from both the home institution and from TROY.

The delegation, consisting of 16 members representing nine partner universities, arrived on the Troy Campus on Nov. 14 and toured Troy and attended the convocation on Nov. 15.

Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. said he

plans to expand the program to include at least 200 students by 2010, and announced plans to locate a University location in China, although no timeframe has been established for that effort. Hawkins said that effort would involve Gov. Bob Riley's office and the Alabama Development Office and create a State of Alabama presence in mainland China for trade and education.

## Chancellor Hawkins named to AASCU Board of Directors

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

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. He has participated in several AASCU-sponsored Presidential Visits abroad to Cuba, Morocco, China and South Africa.

Dr. Muriel Howard, President of Buffalo State College, State University of New York, will serve as chair of the board. Dr. Carlos Hernández, President of New Jersey City University, is chair-elect.



**Rotarians make donation.** Troy Rotary Club President Ken Vaughan presents a check for \$12,500 to Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. recently as a part of the Club's 10-year, \$125,000 commitment to TROY's International Programs. This year's donation was the ninth installment. The Club's support helped to make possible the University's Rotary International Center at Pace Hall on the Troy Campus.

## Growth

### Continued from Page 1

successful in attracting new students to our traditional campus in Troy, but we are also seeing increases in the number of distance-learning students."

Dr. Schmidt said that a new 525-bed residence hall complex under construction on the Troy Campus will enhance recruiting efforts for 2007. He said residence halls are filled to capacity for fall 2006.

Buddy Starling, Dean of Enrollment Management, said the enrollment increase can be attributed in part to continued focus on "strategic enrollment" coupled with "strong marketing support."

"We have been successful in broadening our base of traditional students by reaching out beyond southeast Alabama to the Birmingham and Mobile areas, although we always focus a great deal of attention on our home base," Starling said. "We have also added a recruiter in Florida, a move that will pay dividends in the future."

## Doctorate

### Continued from Page 1

the doctor of nursing practice degree will be required by certification organizations before students sit for national board examinations. He also added that by offering the degree, TROY graduates would be able to become certified to teach in any nursing program within Alabama – helping ease the shortage of nursing faculty members in the state.

Now that authorization from the board of trustees has been obtained, the University will move forward structuring the program that merely adds to its current curriculum, noted statewide for its pass rates on national board exams.

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.

Trustees also approved a measure naming the Chi Omega house in memory of Rachel Youngblood Hawkins, the 22-year chapter advisor who died Sept. 10, and approved an honorary doctor of humane letters degree to Tang Chai Yoong, president of the Malaysia-based Institut Putra and the University's primary partner in that region.

A resolution commending retiring faculty and staff members was approved, as was a resolution commending Western Kentucky University's entry into the Sun Belt Conference, the athletic conference in which TROY has membership. Trustees also heard a legal update, the federal and state legislative agenda and a student services report.

# Build-a-Bear

Company's founder speaks to Sorrell College of Business faculty, alumni and students

**M**axine Clark founded Build-a-Bear Workshops® to “bring the fun back to retailing.”

That “fun” business did almost \$360 million in net retail sales in 2005, Clark told an audience at Troy University Tuesday. Speaking to a group of Sorrell College of Business faculty, alumni and students at TROY's Phenix City Campus, Clark told the Build-a-Bear story and praised a TROY professor in the process.

Clark said that Dr. Robert Carter, adjunct faculty member in the College of Business in Phenix City, played a major role in her development as an entrepreneur. Clark said she was headed toward a career in law, but after taking Dr. Carter's consumer behavior class at the University of Georgia, she was hooked on retail.

That career path led Clark to success with the May Company and then served as President of Payless Shoe Source. She formed Build-a-Bear in 1996 on a foundation of things she learned from Dr. Carter and her mentors at the May Company.

“So many of the things in his (Dr. Carter's) classes about consumer behavior haven't changed much over



**Dr. Robert Carter displays a copy Build-a-Bear founder Maxine Clark's book “The Bear Necessities of Business.”**

the years,” she said. “Stanley Goodman (of the May Company) said retailing is entertainment and the store is your stage.”

Clark's Build-a-Bear “stages”—more than 225 worldwide—allow customers to create their own stuffed animals, starting with a shell—the ani-

mal without stuffing. Customers can visit different stations in the store to choose clothes, sound systems and stuffing for the animals. And if a bear is ever lost, a barcode imbedded can ensure that teddy is returned home. To date, more than 3,200 successful animal rescues have been made, Clark said.

“Every adult that I asked ‘What would you think about making your own stuffed animals?’ said ‘Why would anyone want to make their own stuffed animals?’ Every single child that I asked said, ‘That would be so cool,’” she said. “So I knew that I was on to something here.”

Clark's business plan calls for Build-a-Bear Workshops in about 350 cities. The company is also placing specialty stores inside zoos and major league baseball parks. Build-a-Bear is global, with stores in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

During Tuesday's lecture, Clark shared with the TROY contingent some of her secrets for success, which she has compiled in a new book, “The Bear Necessities of Business.” Clark's key piece of advice: “Bring passion into whatever you are doing.”

## *Chi Omega house named in honor of Mrs. Rachel Hawkins*

The Troy University Board of Trustees on Nov. 18 approved a measure naming the Chi Omega house in honor of Rachel Youngblood Hawkins.

The move honors the memory of Mrs. Hawkins – wife of board president pro-tem Dr. Doug Hawkins, recognizing her efforts to build a Greek system at the University and for her 22 years of service as chapter advisor. Mrs. Hawkins died Sept. 10, 2006.

Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr., Chancellor of Troy University, encouraged the Board to “embrace” the designation.

“Naming the Chi Omega house in

memory of such a wonderful and pioneer lady who was indeed the mother of the Greek system at TROY could not be more fitting,” he said. “A more appropriate overture could not be taken by Troy University.”

Working with the TROY chapter and the national Chi Omega council, the University will now designate the house as a lasting tribute to Mrs. Hawkins.

“We wanted not to have the memory of Rachel living in a few select minds,” said Chapter Advisor Sheryl Matney. “We wanted her legacy to be perma-

nent for every Chi Omega who comes on campus. We want every young woman who comes to Chi O to know the impact Rachel has had on our lives – she made us better than what we wanted to be, live a better life than what we lived and that's what we want people to remember when they look at the Rachel Youngblood Hawkins House.”

Matney, who pledged Chi Omega at TROY in 1979 and calls Mrs. Hawkins her mentor, said portraits of both Mrs. Hawkins and chapter co-founder Alice Walters would also be placed in the house.

## Exceptional employee

History Department's Machele Rogers wins Vergil Parks McKinley Award for November

**M**achele Rogers, departmental secretary for the history department at Troy University, has won the University's Vergil Parks McKinley Award for November.

Rogers, who has been a member of the University staff since 1998, received the award during a ceremony on Nov. 29 in the Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor on the Troy Campus. Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., TROY chancellor, presented the award to Rogers, who was nominated by Bryant P. Shaw, chairman of the history department at Troy University's Troy Campus.

The McKinley Award is the highest honor that Troy University gives to a non-faculty staff member. It is presented monthly to an employee who has demonstrated outstanding attitude, innovation and work ethic. The award was established by former Texaco CEO John McKinley in honor of his father, Vergil Parks McKinley, who was a Troy University professor during the early 20th century and was key to the development of the university's athletic program. Winners of this award receive an engraved clock and a \$350 stipend.

In a letter of nomination, Shaw said that Rogers is the "single most excep-



**Machele Rogers, departmental secretary for the history department, receives the Vergil Parks McKinley Award for November from Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., left, and Dr. Bryant P. Shaw, department chair, during a ceremony on Nov. 29.**

tional secretary that I have supervised in 30 years in the military and 5 years at Troy University."

"No task seems too big for this extraordinarily creative, self-motivated and energetic individual," Shaw said. "When she receives a faculty or student request of any sort – for information, academic schedule changes,

office furniture, computer accessories or information technology assistance – Mrs. Rogers not only knows what to do and who to contact; her genuinely courteous and positive attitude generates quick and usually successful outcomes."

Rogers and her husband Jackie make their home in Troy.

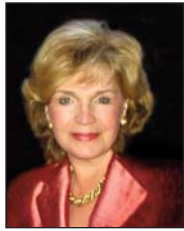
**Reward Callers.** Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. congratulates the November Reward Caller Award winners during a ceremony in the Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor on Wednesday. Dr. Hawkins is pictured with, from left to right, Mark Davis of the University Bookstore, Wendy Sikes of Purchasing and Herb Reeves, dean of student services. Not pictured is Julia Wilson, director of special events and special projects. The award is presented monthly and winners receive \$25.



## Highest honor

American Association of State Colleges and Universities pays tribute to TROY first lady

**J**anice Hawkins, Troy University's first lady, has been awarded the highest honor a presidential spouse can receive from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.



**Janice Hawkins**

Mrs. Hawkins was one of four spouses honored with a special tribute at the opening general session of the recent AASCU national meeting. The AASCU Spouse Program was founded in the mid-1970s and in 1996 the presidents established the Annual AASCU Spouse Tribute. Twenty-three spouses have been selected for this high honor since its inception. The tribute included a published brochure containing written tributes from the presidents and chancellors to their spouses.

The core purpose of the AASCU spouse program is to offer an opportunity for spouses to meet and to share their ideas, experiences, program initiatives and concerns in a forum designed specifically for their needs, according to Jo Hern Curriss, Director of Spouse Programs.

In addition, presentations are scheduled to assist spouses in their public role, such as ceremonial protocol for introductions of national and international dignitaries, name retention, media training, wellness issues, social and ethical controversies and mentoring of new spouses. At the annual meeting, Mrs. Hawkins presented a session on proper etiquette, modeled after her annual presentation to students in Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr.'s Capstone Leadership Class.

"Janice Hawkins serves TROY with great pride and joy and she is widely admired and loved by the AASCU membership, both by the presidents and the spouses," Mrs. Curriss said.

## *TROY's Bobby Jon Drinkard to appear in upcoming movie*

When a new movie depicting the 1971 Marshall University Thundering Herd football team is shown in theaters nationwide beginning Dec. 22, one member of the cast will be a Troy University Trojan.

Troy University alumnus and current admissions counselor, Bobby Jon Drinkard, will appear in "We Are Marshall," which tells the story of the university's efforts to start a football program from scratch after the 1970 squad was killed in an airline crash.

Drinkard became involved in the movie when a casting director he knew through some friends in L.A. contacted him and asked if he would be interested.

Drinkard will play the role of a Marshall football player who played his last game against East Carolina, and ends up dying in the crash that claims the lives of the entire team, coaches, and several boosters.

"The movie deals with a combination of a tragedy, drama, and perseverance, in pursuit of Marshall University and community coming



**TROY Admissions Counselor Bobby Jon Drinkard (wearing jersey number 26 in the first row) joins fellow cast members for a team photo during the filming of the movie "We Are Marshall." The film, which is set for nationwide release Dec. 22, tells the story of Marshall University's efforts to start a football program from scratch after the 1970 squad and coaches were killed in an airline crash.**

together to field a football team from scratch the following year," Drinkard said. "It will leave some people in chills and some people in tears. It's going to be a very good movie."

Drinkard also says he plans to continue pursuing acting.

"I've been tinkering with this pro-

fession for a few years so I will always be interested in exploring the profession." Drinkard said. "I feel everyone has a window within themselves to explore and open up. Acting fosters a journey within everyone to pursue a virtual place that we have never been before. I enjoy it."

## Activities & achievements

**Dr. Jim Vickrey**, professor of speech communication, is the author of an article on "The Role of Gender in (Lawyerly) Communication" in the current issue of the Alabama Trial Lawyers Journal.

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**Dr. Pamela Manners**, associate professor of psychology, co-authored a test bank to accompany a new lifespan developmental psychology text published by Worth Publishing. The text is *Experiencing the Lifespan*, by Janet Belsky.

...

**Dr. Amy Spurlock**, associate professor of nursing, presented a paper entitled "Academic-Community Partnership for Abused and Neglected Children: A Case Study" at the American Public Health Association's annual conference in Boston, MA on Nov. 6. This paper details the partnership between Troy University and our surrounding communities in the creation and implementation of the Pike Regional Child Advocacy Center.

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**John Jinright**, assistant professor in the John M. Long School of Music, recently completed a digital production masterclass with legendary platinum producer-engineer Roger Nichols.

Nichols received seven grammy awards for his work with Steely Dan. The masterclass was held in Outkast's Stankonia Studio in Atlanta, GA and focused on advanced digital production techniques including mixing and mastering use of Roger's proprietary multiband compression software.

...

**Dr. Mac Adkins**, campus director of distance learning and television support for the Montgomery Campus, recently co-presented with Dr. Maureen O'Halloran of the University of Alaska on "Step Away From the Keyboard; Experiential Learning in Online Courses" at the 18th Annual WCET Conference in Portland, Oregon. The presentation shared results of a study on how faculty have incorporated experiential learning into their online courses at Troy University and the University of Alaska. Lessons learned on challenges, logistics, student satisfaction, and the process of making it all work were shared.

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**Dr. Diane Bandow**, business program chair and associate director of academics for undergraduate business, served as a discussant and presented a paper at the Southern Management Association (SMA) annual meeting in Clearwater, FL, Oct. 25-28. Her paper was entitled "Identifying Constructs and Categories of Trust Using a Semantic Differential Scale." The paper summarized the results of a pilot study that identified four categories of trust and discussed the development of a multi-dimensional scale to measure trust.

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**Dr. Michael Stoil**, adjunct professor, present his paper entitled "Robert Wood Johnson Foundation After School Project (ASP): Lessons Learned for City-Wide Initiatives" at the Southeastern Conference on Public Administration held in September on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens.

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**Dr. Carol Lewis**, assistant professor of counseling and psychology, made a presentation at the Florida Counseling Association state convention in November. The presentation was "From Pedagogy to Andragogy: Addressing Adult Learning in a Non-traditional Academic Setting."

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**Dr. Vincent Philpot**, assistant professor of counseling and psychology, made a presentation at the Florida Counseling Association state convention in November. The presentation was "Facilitating the Development of Successful Lives with Youth in the Juvenile Justice System."

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**Dr. Dan J. Puckett**, assistant professor of history presented a paper at the Southern Historical Association's annual meeting in Birmingham on Nov. 17. The paper was titled, "The Jim Crow of All the Ages: The Impact of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Racial Ideology on Civil Rights in Alabama, 1933-1945."

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**Dr. Sam Shelton**, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, published an article, "Jury Decision Making: Using Group Theory to Improve Deliberation," in the December 2006 issue of *Politics & Policy*.

## Thank-you notes

Troy University Faculty and Staff,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful peace plant you sent to the funeral for Charley.

Donna and I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

**Dorothy H. Laney**

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To TROY ASN students, staff and

faculty,

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Troy University ASN nursing students, staff and faculty who so generously contributed to the Mid-Alabama Coalition blanket drive for the homeless.

Your generosity, love and kindness allowed us to greatly exceed our original goal of 40 blankets. You gave

freely and willingly to help the less fortunate in our community. You displayed all the characteristics that are so greatly needed in nursing and in the world today. It is our pleasure to be your faculty and peers and to be a part of your lives.

God Bless you and keep you warm this holiday season.

**Ms. Jean and Mary Battaglia**

# Graduation time

Troy, Dothan and Montgomery campuses gear up for fall commencement ceremonies

## ***State Superintendent of Education Morton to address graduates on the Troy Campus Dec. 8***

Dr. Joe Morton, state superintendent of education, will give the fall commencement address at Troy University on Friday, as approximately 350 students are scheduled to receive diplomas.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. in Sartin Hall on the Troy Campus. Students from 17 U.S. states, one U.S. territory and 12 foreign nations are scheduled to receive diplomas.

Dr. Morton was selected by the Alabama State Board of Education to be the state superintendent of education on July 13, 2004. He served as interim state superintendent from January 23, 2004 - July 13, 2004. Prior to the appointment as interim state superintendent of education, Dr. Morton served for eight years as deputy state superintendent of education.

He was previously superintendent of education of Sylacauga City Schools and of Sumter County Schools. Dr. Morton has a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and a master's and Ph.D. degrees from The University of Alabama.

Dr. Morton has been recognized by three different organizations as the outstanding superintendent of education in Alabama. He was selected by The Executive Educator magazine as one of the top 100 school executives in North America. Dr. Morton was a member of the first classes of Leadership Sylacauga and Leadership Alabama.

## ***District Judge-elect Pamela Robinson Higgins to deliver commencement addresses in Montgomery***

Troy University will hold two commencement ceremonies at its Montgomery Campus on Thursday, Dec. 14, with District Judge-elect Pamela Robinson Higgins delivering the keynote addresses.

Graduate commencement is scheduled for 5 p.m. and undergraduate commencement ceremonies will begin at 7 p.m. Both ceremonies will be held in Troy University's Davis Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Higgins, a Montgomery native, earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Alabama and a law degree at Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law. A practicing attorney for more than 14 years, Higgins is a member of both Alabama and Georgia bar associations. She will take her oath of office as Montgomery County District Court Judge on Jan. 5.

Prior to opening her own law office in 2003, she was a shareholder in the law firm of Thomas, Means, Gillis & Seay, P.C. She has been a law clerk for late Alabama Supreme Court Justice Oscar W. Adams Jr., a deputy attorney general of Alabama and has served as counsel to the Association of County Commissions of Alabama.

Higgins is married to Lamar P. Higgins, a member of the Troy University Board of Trustees. She is a member of St. Paul AME Church, where she serves on the board of trustees and the lay organization.

## ***Coleman American CEO Jeff Coleman to deliver keynote address at Dothan ceremony***

Coleman American Companies CEO and President Jeff Coleman will deliver the keynote address at Troy University's Fall 2006 Commencement Exercises in Dothan. TROY will confer degrees upon more than 250 graduates December 17 at the Dothan Civic Center during a 3 p.m. ceremony.

A 1995 graduate of Troy University, Coleman earned his MBA at the Dothan Campus and was named 2003 Alumni of the Year. He also holds a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration from the University of Alabama.

The corporation Coleman heads one

of the largest privately held transportation companies headquartered in the Southeast. Coleman American operates more than 35 Service Centers and Covan World Wide Moving, a top ten van line carrier. Coleman American also maintains an agent affiliation with Allied Van Lines, the largest relocation organization in the world.

Earlier this year, Governor Bob Riley appointed Coleman to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. The Commission is the coordinating board for all public institutions of higher education in the State of Alabama.

Industry colleagues have also elected Coleman to the boards of the American Moving and Storage Association, the Allied Van Lines Agents Association and the Household Goods Forwarders Association of America.

Active in the community, Coleman serves on the board of directors of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Fort Rucker, Wiregrass Museum of Art and Southeast Alabama Dance Company. He is a former board member for Girls Clubs and Southeast Alabama Community Theatre.