



# TROY TODAY

*A look inside Troy University for faculty and staff*

**January 29, 2007**

## *Inside Today*

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## Study released

### University's economic impact on Alabama reaches \$336 million

Troy University's economic impact on the State of Alabama reached \$336 million for the 2005-06 academic year, according to a study released by the University's Center for International Business and Economic Development.

The study is the first of its kind for TROY since 1991 and the first to gauge the total economic impact of all four Alabama campuses in Troy, Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City. The study collected information gath-

ered from surveys of students, faculty and staff members and budget figures supplied by the University's Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs.

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., chancellor, said the economic impact study illustrates the value of Troy University beyond the classroom.

"We are first and foremost an institution dedicated to academic achievement, but service to our region is a central part of our mission," Dr. Hawkins said.

"This study helps quantify Troy

University's contribution to the economic well-being of our region."

The study found that Troy University was responsible for 5,160 in-state jobs with a combined payroll of \$139.8 million and contributed \$10.6 million to small business proprietors' incomes. The value of purchases and other expenditures by students, faculty and staff is conservatively estimated at \$225.6 million statewide.

**See IMPACT, Page 2**



**Annual Fund kickoff.** Kim Shaver and Irene Bryant turn in their Annual Fund pledge cards to Tiffany Ivey and Holly Jones during the Troy Campus faculty/staff campaign kickoff on Wednesday. The Annual Fund helps to provide scholarships, support faculty and staff development and help ensure that academic programs remain state-of-the art. Faculty/staff campaign kickoff events were also held on the Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City campuses on Wednesday.

## *Sixth annual Leadership Conference set for Feb. 2-3*

A nationally noted Civil Rights advocate and a trailblazer in the field of higher education will be the keynote speakers for the sixth annual Leadership Conference Celebrating Black History Month presented by Troy University and the City of Troy. The conference is set for Feb. 2-3 in the Trojan Center Ballrooms on the Troy Campus.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, co-founder and president emeritus of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, will deliver the keynote address on Feb. 2, while Dr. Belle Wheelan, the first African American and woman to fill the role of president of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, will serve as the keynote speaker on Feb. 3.

Called the "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement" by the NAACP, Lowery was born in Huntsville in 1921 and began his work with civil rights in the early 1950s in Mobile. There, he headed the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, an organization devoted to the desegregation of buses and public places.

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***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.***

## Reaching the Summit

TROY faculty, staff explore marketing at event

**M**ore than 60 Troy University Administrators, faculty and staff took part in the University's first ever Marketing Summit on Jan. 17-18 on the Troy Campus.

A diverse crowd ranging from regional directors and deans to faculty and staff members heard presentations concerning TROY's marketing efforts, public relations and various services available through the University.

The event also featured presentations by HCD Advertising and Public Relations, the University's advertising agency, and displays by four vendors featuring TROY items available through their businesses.

Response to the event was overwhelmingly positive, according to Sandi Gouge, associate vice chancellor for marketing and communication.

Ninety-seven percent of responding

participants said the summit "enhanced their understanding of marketing TROY," as well as their understanding of the direction, processes and plans for advertising the University. Ninety-seven percent of respondents also rated the session leaders as effective in their presentations.

"The Marketing Summit was excellent," one respondent commented. Another called the event "most useful...productive."

Presenters included: Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., Dr. Cameron Martindale, Sandi Gouge, Rob Waddell, Faith Ward, Julia Wilson, Dan Joslyn, Sohail Agboatwala, Tom Davis, William Glisson and Joe Johnson, all of TROY. Jay Stecher, Doug Symons, Chris Calcagno and Bob Jorden all represented HCD. Paul Millo of Graphics and Mailing Service also presented during the summit.



At left, Dr. Cameron Martindale addressed the gathering during her presentation "What You Are Telling Us About Your Marketing and Advertising Challenges/New Directions." Above, participants listen to a presentation by Jerry Johnson, chair of the TROY Department of Art and Design.

## Impact

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Dr. Judson Edwards, director of the Center for International Business and Economic Development, said a "conservative" approach was used in compiling the study.

"From my experience, many economic impact studies are too optimistic," Dr. Edwards said. "For Troy University's study, we only considered the dollars that we could directly trace to verifiable data. For example, the study does not include estimated expenditures by visitors to Troy University campuses for events such as football games and conferences."

Dr. Mac Holmes, who conducted the study, said it also reflects the University's value as a way to attract citizens to the region and state.

"A large majority of student respondents indicated, during the study, that they might not even be in the study area, or even Alabama, were it not for the opportunity to get a university education at Troy University," Dr. Holmes said.

This study is the first installment of a three-step process of examining the University's economic impact. The next installment, scheduled to begin this spring, will examine the economic impact of Troy University on Alabama's workforce development, specifically the contribution of TROY alumni. The third part of the study will review the economic impact of extracurricular activities at Troy University, including athletics and University conference services.

## Chinese language, culture aim of study-abroad trip

Troy University faculty, staff and students are invited to participate in the University's newest study-abroad experience "Troy in China—Summer Study 2007."

Dr. Maryjo Cochran, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, is one of the organizers of the session, and Ed Noriega, professor in the Department of Graphic Art and

Design, is the campus contact (ext. 3393 or [enoriega@troy.edu](mailto:enoriega@troy.edu)). The program will be four weeks between June 1 and July 31, with exact schedules to be announced later this semester.

Called "Yangtze River Journey," the summer study sessions are designed for those who are interested in Chinese language and culture, but have little or no Chinese language skills.

All classes will be taught in English. Three to six academic credit hours are available.

Cost is \$2,300, which does not include airfare or tuition. The fee covers transportation between cities in China, accommodations, meals and insurance. Register before March 1 to participate. Total payment for the program is due before April 1.

## From Human Resources *Laughter: It's Good Medicine*

Think of the funny stories you tell when you get together with old friends. Aren't many of them about events that didn't seem funny at all when they were happening? In fact I'll bet that the funniest stories you tell are about precisely the things that were most disturbing at the time.

Laughter has many physical benefits, including improving our immune system and reducing pain. Laughter also helps to decrease conflict and increase morale.



A great tool to use when dealing with stressful situations is to think past the situation to the funny story that you will tell. Step back from the situation for a moment and review it in your mind. Look for the humor. Seeing the humor in the situation may help you to determine a plan of action instead of becoming paralyzed by the stress.

Can't see the humor in the situation? Share your situation with someone else. A friend or counselor that is not involved in the situation may be able to help you see it from a different perspective. All of us have a tendency to have "tunnel vision" and see a situation from one perspective. Talking with others allows for other view points.

The next stressful experience you have, stop and ask yourself, how will I tell this story in the future? Remember, it isn't the situation, but our perception of the situation, that determines our reaction.

— By Judi Braswell, M.Ed., CEAP, LPC  
*Behavioral Health Systems*

## Conference

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Lowery is a co-founder and chairman emeritus of the Black Leadership Forum, a consortium of black advocacy groups, as well as a convener of the Coalition for The Peoples' Agenda.

As a United Methodist minister, Lowery served as pastor of churches in Mobile, Birmingham and Atlanta, GA and served as a delegate to three General Conferences, the quadrennial meeting of the denomination's top legislative body.



Rev. Lowery

Lowery has received numerous awards, including an NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, the Martin Luther King Center Peace Award and the National Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award. He has twice been named as one of the "Fifteen Greatest Black Preachers" by "Ebony" magazine and holds honorary doctorates from Dillard University, Morehouse College, Alabama State University and the University of Alabama, among others. Lowery is a graduate of Alabama A&M University, Knoxville College, Payne College and Theological Seminary and the Chicago Ecumenical Institute.

Wheelan's career in higher education spans 32 years. Prior to taking her present post as president of the Commission on Colleges in 2005, she served as the secretary of education for the state of Virginia. She previously served as president of Northern Virginia Community College, the state's largest institution of higher education and the nation's second largest community college.

In 1992, Wheelan became the first African American woman to serve as president of a two- or four-year public institution of higher education in

the Commonwealth of Virginia when she took over the role at Central Virginia Community College.

Prior to her presidencies, Wheelan held faculty and administrative posts at the Portsmouth Campus of Tidewater Community College in Virginia, Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, VA, and San Antonio College in Texas.

Wheelan holds a bachelor's degree with a double major in psychology and sociology from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, a master's degree from Louisiana State University and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Texas.

The theme of this year's conference, which is designed to bring together local residents in Troy and surrounding communities, civic and community leaders, clergymen and business leaders in a collaborative and educational forum, is "Leadership by Design: Ensuring our Legacy."

The conference will feature several presentations on "Designing Character," "Competency and Communication," "Designing Safe Communities" and "Designing Healthy Communities."

Other featured speakers include Dr. Robert Jennings, president of Alabama A&M in Normal; Mrs. Gwendolyn Mosley, prison warden with the Alabama Department of Corrections in Clio; Capt. Huey Thornton of the Montgomery Police Department; Shelia Deveridge, a Social Security claims representative with the Montgomery office; Dr. Yolanda Patterson, MD, of the Charles Henderson Health Care Center; and Dr. Angelique Murphy of Troy, who will provide total health and wellness information.

The conference is open to the public and the registration fee is \$30 per person. For more information, contact the Institute for Leadership Development at 670-3389.

# Incredible work ethic

Human Resources' Jane Wilson wins Vergil Parks McKinley Award for January

**J**ane Wilson, payroll specialist in the Human Resources Department at Troy University, has won the University's Vergil Parks McKinley Award for January.

Wilson, who has been a member of the TROY staff since 1999, received the award Wednesday during a ceremony at the Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor on the Troy Campus. Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., TROY chancellor, presented the award to Wilson, who was nominated by Lee Vardaman, senior director of human resources.

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, Wilson was lauded for her "high level of efficiency."

"She consistently performs the duties of at least two employees while serving as both payroll specialist and departmental secretary," Vardaman said in his letter of nomination. "Jane consistently demonstrates an incredible work ethic. She arrives to work early and provides non-stop assistance to student workers, University employees, applicants for employment and visitors. While managing and processing all student work payrolls, Jane



**Jane Wilson, payroll specialist in the Human Resources Department at Troy University, is presented with the Vergil Parks McKinley Award for January on Wednesday by TROY Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., left, and Lee Vardaman, senior director of human resources. The McKinley Award is the highest honor the University bestows on a non-faculty staff member and consists of a \$350 stipend and an engraved clock.**

simultaneously answers and transfers telephone calls entering the department, directs visitors to the correct staff person and performs critical duties such as filing unemployment reports with the State of Alabama. She is one of the most impressive people with whom I have ever worked. Her no-nonsense approach to work and drive to accomplish is remarkable."

Vardaman said the most difficult aspect of nominating Wilson for the award was keeping her in the dark about the nomination.

"Jane not only coordinates the McKinley Award Nomination Committee meetings, she also handles

the cutting of the award check and engraving of the clock for each winner," Vardaman said. "Jane is truly an asset to the University and a vital part of the Human Resources Department."

Wilson, who was joined at the ceremony by her family, said she truly enjoyed her work at TROY.

"I have had a wonderful time working with everyone," she said. "I enjoy my work and the environment and people here at Troy University. This is a tremendous honor for me. They really surprised me with this."

Wilson and her husband Charles reside in Goshen.

## Activities & achievements

**Mike Tew**, coordinator of business and industry in the Continuing Education Center on the Dothan Campus, has developed a Certificate in Non Profit Administration for charities to learn how to properly set up and manage the organization including writing by-laws, conducting meetings, marketing, ethics, motivating volunteers, program development, grant writing and others.

The classes will be taught by internationally known David Nye. The format will take a person 12 months to complete.

Tew also has recently made presentations to the Wiregrass Human Resource Management Association on Jan. 10, and the Construction Trade Instructors of the Phenix City school system on Jan. 8.

His presentation to the Wiregrass Human Resource Management Association was "New Employee Orientation," which focused on the different approaches to hiring and training new employees, due to the area's low employment rate.

In Phenix City, Tew spoke on the importance of safety training in high school as students prepare for careers as well as the use of the safety skills that will be applicable to their home life. His participation is part of the plan to implement more OSHA training to high school students as recognized by the State Superintendent of Schools in a signing of an agreement with OSHA in October 2006. Plans are being formulated to certify high school teachers to teach OSHA certification courses. TROY and the University of Alabama will be the train-the-trainer instructors.

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**Professors John Jinright** of the John M. Long School of Music and Bessie Hunter-Shelton of Lawson State College were co-presenters in a recent lecture-recital presented by the Alabama Higher Education Division Applied Music Professors at the 2007 In-Service Conference of the Alabama Music Educators Association. Their presentation included a performance of the aria "The Trees on the Mountains" from the opera "Susannah" by composer Carlisle Floyd.

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**Dr. Pamela Manners**, associate professor in the Depart-

ment of Psychology, participated in a Developmental Psychology panel discussion on Jan. 8 - 9, at the annual sales meeting of Worth Publishers, in Bonita Springs, FL.

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**Dr. Michael Stewart**, professor of biological and environmental sciences and ALFA Eminent Scholar, has published an article in the Journal of the American Water Resources Association titled "Development of an index of biotic integrity for a southeastern coastal plain watershed, USA." His co-authors were Charles Morris, a former graduate student in the EAM (now EBS) Program and Dr. Tom Simon of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

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**Dr. Robert B. Kane**, an adjunct professor of history and an Air Force historian at Eglin AFB, FL, had his reviews of "Hindenburg, Icon of German Militarism and Franco Soldier, Commander, Dictator" published in the Air and Space Power Journal.

Additionally, he gave a presentation on the Air Force history program at a panel "Careers in Public History" at the Jan 4-7 meeting of the American Historical Association. He also recently interviewed with the Military Channel for an upcoming television production on air-delivered weapons.

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**Dr. Debbie Moore**, assistant professor of biology, has been elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors of Dothan Landmarks Foundation, Inc., the operator of Landmark Park. The park houses several historic buildings and a farm site dating back to the 1890s. An array of workshops and summer camps focusing on biology and ecology are also offered at Landmark Park.

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**Dr. Jim Vickrey**, professor of speech communication, Montgomery Campus, has co-authored an article in the Alabama Bar's publication ADDENDUM.

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**CORRECTION:** **Dr. Andy Creamer** is chair of the Department of Counseling and Psychology and associate professor. His title appeared incorrectly in the last edition.

## *Willis named coordinator of recruitment, special events*

Chanakuh Gray Willis of Montgomery has been named coordinator of recruitment and special events at Troy University.

The coordinators position works together with the Dean of Enrollment management, Buddy Starling.

Willis will coordinate visitation events for the Office of Admissions and be the facilitator for all academic scholarship opportunities. She will also be working with other admissions coun-

selors to ensure TROY's recruiting efforts are handled efficiently with high school and junior colleges throughout Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

Willis, who officially took on the role in December, had previously served as an admissions counselor. She has been a member of the TROY family since the fall of 2001.

"I'm really excited to be given the opportunity, and I am confident that the joy and dedication I have for

TROY will be very beneficial to the recruiting and retention process," said Willis.

Willis earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology and human services from TROY in May 2005. She is working on her master's degree in post secondary education with a psychology concentration. Willis currently also serves as a Trojan Ambassador Advisor and IMPACT director and is a past-president of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

# A fond farewell

## Troy University honors 31 retirees for years of dedicated service

Troy University honored the 2006 retirees at the annual Christmas luncheon in December.

The retirees were:

- Mr. Jimmy D. Sanders, associate professor, for 14 years of service
- Ms. Julia Smith, director of library services, for 26 years of service
- Mrs. Rebecca Davis, financial aid, for 24 years of service
- Dr. Barbara I. Gusick, associate professor of English, for 10 years of service
- Ms. Carolsue Holland, professor of arts and sciences, for 25 years of service
- Ms. Judith R. Cooper, assistant professor of the ASN program, for 25 years of service
- Mr. Fred Feagin, instructor of English, for 12 years of service
- Dr. Donald E. Rosenhoover, associate professor, for 15 years of service
- Ms. Edna Railey, departmental secretary of information technology, for 13 years of service
- Ms. Audrey L. Milton, departmental secretary of criminal justice and social science, for 28 years of service
- Mrs. Beverly N. Duncan, inventory specialist of purchasing, for 26 years of

service

- Dr. Theodore M. Kluz, adjunct professor of arts and sciences, for 28 years of service
- Dr. Suzanne P. Stokes, associate professor of nursing, for 15 years of service
- Dr. Steven J. Cross, professor in the Sorrell College of Business, for 15 years of service
- Dr. Cynthia R. Lumpkin, professor of the College of Education, for 13 years of service
- Dr. James A. Whiteside, eminent scholar of sports media and athletic training, for 10 years of service
- Mr. Michael W. Mullen, research coordinator of biological sciences, for 20 years of service
- Dr. Philip H. Seigel, professor in the Sorrell College of Business, for 2 years of service
- Ms. Dianne Cooper, office manager of the Davis Theatre for the Performing Arts, for 17 years of service
- Mr. Richard J. Thompson, printer in Creative Services, for 28 years of service
- Mrs. Willie V. Dunn, departmental

secretary for political science, for 23 years of service

- Ms. Claudia J. Enloe, lecturer, for 17 years of service
- Ms. Ruthie Jean Kirkland, departmental secretary of enrollment services, for 11 years of service
- Ms. Carol H. Landry, clerk, for 16 years of service
- Mrs. Susan C. Pierce, director of student development, for 24 years of service
- Mr. Forrest H. Wood, assistant professor of arts and sciences, for 30 years of service
- Ms. Reta S. Cordell, director of graduate admissions and records, for 20 years of service
- Mrs. Linda H. Grice, administrative secretary for the graduate school, for 25 years of service
- Mr. Andrew Rivers, Jr., interim director of Ft. Rucker enrollment services, for 12 years of service
- Mrs. Susan J. Anderson, departmental secretary of arts and sciences, for 16 years of service, and
- Ernest L. Fields, labor supervisor of maintenance, for 10 years of service.



**Reward Callers.** Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., left, congratulates the winners of the Reward Caller Awards for January during a ceremony on Wednesday. From left to right are: Melissa Lambert of the Fort Rucker Site; Donna Riley, accounts payable; and Andrew Williamson of student support services. Not pictured is Sue Beasley of business programs. Winners receive \$25.

## *Pierce wins coach of the year honors*

Troy University head baseball coach Bobby Pierce was recently named state college coach of the year at the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association annual awards banquet in Birmingham.

Pierce, who led the Trojans to a 47-16 record in 2006, including Sun Belt Conference regular season and tournament titles, took home the Coach of the Year award from the ABCA for a second consecutive season. Those two awards join with the Atlantic Sun Conference Coach of the Year award he won in 2005 and the Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year award he took home in 2006.

## *Thank-you note*

Troy University family,  
Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers during our time of sorrow.

William, Leanne, Alex, John and Michelle Johnson

# Strike up the band

TROY to play host to 34th annual SEUS Concert Band Clinic Feb. 1-3

High school band students from across the southeastern United States will fill Troy University's campus Feb. 1-3 as they participate in the 34th annual Southeastern United States Concert Band Clinic (SEUS).

"This conference is a good opportunity to get people here to showcase our city, campus and programs," said Carol Franks, assistant professor of music for TROY and executive director for the high school clinic.

The Northwinds Symphonic Band of Gainesville, GA, conducted by Ron Evans, will kick off the three-day event with a concert in the Claudia Crosby Theater at 7 p.m., Feb. 1.

Friday, Feb. 2 will begin with a clinic presented by Dean Cassels and Buddy Ball at 10 a.m. Three guest bands will perform following the clinic. The bands include: Sandy Creek High School of Tyrone, GA, conducted by Casey Eubanks (11 a.m.), Thompson High School of Alabaster, conducted by Jon Bubbett (1:30 p.m.), and DeSoto (FL) High School, conducted by Harry Blake (4 p.m.).

The Troy University Symphony Band, conducted by Director of Bands Ralph Ford, will appear in concert at 8 p.m. on Feb. 2.

Composer in Residence Stephen Melillo's clinic in Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor will start Saturday's agenda at 10:30 a.m. At 1:15 p.m., Mosley High School Band of Lynn Haven, FL, conducted by Jamie Birdwell, will perform the final guest concert.

Following the performance by Mosley High School, the SEUS Crimson and Silver honor bands will perform in the Claudia Crosby Theater beginning at 4:30 p.m. The two honor bands are composed of high school students from the Southeast who were selected through taped auditions previous to the clinic. These students will spend Feb. 1-3 in preparation for the concert on Sat-

## Concert Schedule

All concerts will be performed in the Claudia Crosby Theater in Smith Hall on the Troy Campus. Concerts are free and open to the public.

### Thursday, Feb. 1

7 p.m. – Northwinds Symphonic Band of Gainesville, GA, Ron Evans, conductor

### Friday, Feb. 2

11 a.m. – Sandy Creek High School Band of Tyrone, GA, Casey Eubanks, conductor

1:30 p.m. – Thompson High School Band of Alabaster, Jon Bubbett, conductor

4 p.m. – Desoto (FL) High School Band, Harry Blake, conductor

8 p.m. – Troy University Symphony Band Concert, Ralph Ford, conductor

### Saturday, Feb. 3

1:15 p.m. – Mosley High School Band of Lynn Haven, FL, Jamie Birdwell, conductor

4:30 p.m. – SEUS Crimson and Silver Honor Bands, Dr. John M. Long and Joseph Hermann, conductors

urday evening.

The Crimson and Silver Honor Bands will be conducted by Dr. John M. Long, Troy University's director of bands emeritus, and Joseph Hermann, professor of music and director of bands at Tennessee Tech University, respectively. Stephen Melillo will serve as the guest composer-in-residence.

Long, who was the first active bandmaster to be elected to the Alabama Bandmasters Hall of Fame, serves as a guest conductor, speaker, clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States, Europe, Canada and Mexico. Long has been honored with many distinguished awards including: Alabama Music Educators Association's Outstanding Music Educator of the year, the Sousa Foundation's Sudler Gold Medal of Honor and Alabama Council of the Arts' Governors' Award.

Serving as a conductor in more than 30 states in the Netherlands, Canada and Japan, Hermann is sought after as an adjudicator, clinic and workshop pre-

sender and speaker. His symphonic bands have served as featured ensembles at state, regional and national conventions, and recordings of his ensembles have been issued as reference for music educators nationwide. Hermann was also elected to the American Bandmasters Association and has served on the organization's Board of Directors.

Melillo has spent 17 years in public schools and more than 30 years as an international guest conductor. His compositions have been played and recorded by ensembles and conductors from 28 different countries. Melillo is also the creator of STORMWORKS, which aids in self-publishing and digital music dissemination. His work has been featured in 13 feature films, 28 network television programs and the 1991 Academy Award-nominated movie "12:01 P.M." starring Kurtwood Smith. Melillo has also composed game music for Nintendo, Sega-Genesis and others.

All concerts are free and open to the public.

# 'The Boys Next Door'

Troy University Theatre to present Tom Griffin play Jan. 30-Feb. 1

Troy University Theatre will present "The Boys Next Door," a play by Tom Griffin, Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Room 204 of Malone Hall on the Troy Campus. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly, and seating is limited to 47 people per showing.

## Want to go?

**Event:** Troy University Theatre's production "The Boys Next Door"

**Location:** Room 204, Malone Hall

**Date/Time:** Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. nightly

**Admission:** \$5 for general admission tickets; free for students with valid ID. Contact Trojan Center Box Office at 670-3293.

The all-student production centers on Jack Palmer, a supervisor of group apartments for the mentally handicapped, and the activities of four residents – Lucien, Arnold, Barry and Norman – who are under his supervision. While Palmer finds happiness and humor in looking after the four residents, the job is beginning to wear him down.

As the story unfolds, the audience will encounter the childlike antics of the four "boys," as well as the quartet's simple, yet profound perspec-

tives.



Cast members rehearse a scene from the upcoming Troy University Theatre production of "The Boys Next Door," a play by Tom Griffin.

tives.

"It's definitely a challenge," said director Tori Lee, a senior theatre major from Brundidge. "We have taken great care with these characters and have treated them with the utmost respect throughout the process. Hopefully the result will be an audience who is better able to relate to this population and not fear what they do not understand."

Stage Manager for "The Boys Next Door" is Grace Collins. Set design is by Bethanie Wampol, and lighting design is by Jeremy Hodges. Emily Halcomb designed the costumes for the production.

Tickets for "The Boys Next Door" are available in the Trojan Center Box Office (670-3293) and are \$5 general admission and free for students with ID.

## *Yewande concert to kick off Black History Month activities*

Independent artist Yewande will kick off Troy University's Black History Month celebration with a performance at 8 p.m. on Jan. 31 in the Trojan Center Theatre. The event is sponsored by the University Activities Council and also will feature an Open Mic Night for TROY students.

The event is free to students and \$10 for the public.

Yewande, a Louisiana native, received her classical training in voice and piano at Howard University and Carnegie Mellon Conservatory of Music. She has received many awards including the Rose Panselle Award, a featured solo in the reading "Howard University Sings Spirituals" and a scholarship to Aspen Opera Theatre Center.

In 2003, Yewande launched her

own record label, Lotus Records. She has performed with such artists as the Black Eyed Peas, Enrique Iglesias, Michelle Branch, Sean Paul and Maroon 5.

Her music features a powerful blend of jazz, pop and rhythm and blues.

For further information, contact the University Activities Council at 334-670-5768.