



# TROY TODAY

*A look inside Troy University for faculty and staff*

November 3, 2009

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Members of the Ethnic Art Ensemble of Guizhou University perform the traditional Miao dance “Dancing With the Beat of Drums.” The art ensemble will give a free performance at Troy University’s Davis Theatre for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. The performance is sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Troy University.

### *Chinese dance troupe to give free performance at Davis Theatre*

Troy University’s Davis Theatre for the Performing Arts will host a performance of traditional Chinese song and dance from the Ethnic Art Ensemble of Guizhou University tonight.

The performance is sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Troy University. It marks the award-winning art ensemble’s first performance in Alabama.

“Troy University’s Davis Theatre is proud to serve as the venue for this beautiful performance of Chinese music and dance,” said Dr. Kristen Koehler, director of the Davis Theatre. “We are grateful to the Confucius Institute for making this event available to the citizens of Montgomery and our surrounding communities.”

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### *Homer Web site to aid planning, assessment*

Troy University now has a reporting system on the web aimed at documenting current assessments and plans for improvement. Homer, the name of the web-based reporting system, documents Troy’s institutional effectiveness activities. In 2005, three separate accredited institutions were merged, prompting Troy University to explore new ways to communicate its planning, assessment, and improvement activities.

Homer is set up in two ways. Majority of the information is organized by institutional assessment areas under headings of academic departments, administrative activities, educational support programs, research, and community service. Homer is also organized by a section of campus locations that presents key planning, assessment and consecutive improvement information related to each of the university’s teaching locations.

“The goal of Homer is to tell the story of Troy,” said Dr. John R. Dew, Associate Vice Chancellor of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness. “It provides documentation of recent improvements, current assessment, and plans for further

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## ‘A cherished honor’

Sims-deGraffenried inducted into Alabama Educational Leadership Hall of Fame

**D**r. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried said she was humbled at being inducted into the Alabama Educational Leadership Hall of Fame at Troy University, calling it a “very cherished and coveted honor.”

The former executive director of the Alabama Association of School Boards, Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, who retired from AASB in 2007 after 19 years as executive director, was installed as the Hall of Fame’s 37th honoree in a special ceremony today in Hawkins Hall on the Troy Campus.

“Forty-three years ago, I walked into a rural Alabama school at 22 years of age. Little did I know that would bring me here to this point,” she said.

The Hall of Fame was established in 1982 by the Troy University Board of Trustees under the authority of the Legislature of the State of Alabama. Its purpose is to recognize, by cooperative effort of Troy University, the Alabama Association of School Boards, the Alabama Department of Education and the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, outstanding leaders and to establish and maintain a Hall of Fame to permanently record their achievements.

“The Hall of Fame is the most prestigious award that an educator in Alabama can achieve,” Dr. Sims-deGraffenried said. “To know that others have recognized my work as worthwhile is very humbling.”

An educator for more than 40 years, Dr. Sims-deGraffenried began her career in 1966 teaching senior high



**Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried was inducted into the Alabama Educational Leadership Hall of Fame Wednesday at Troy University by (left to right) Dr. Lance Tatum, dean of the College of Education; Hall of Fame Governor Earl Franks, Dr. Sue Helms, president of the Alabama Association of School Boards; Hall of Fame Governor Dr. Joe Morton, Alabama Superintendent of Education; Hall of Fame Governor Sally Howell, executive director of the Alabama Association of School Boards; Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, and Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr., Chancellor of Troy University and Hall of Fame Governor.**

English at Danville High School including stints as a counselor and central office supervisor in the Decatur School System. In 1985, she joined the AASB as its assistant executive director and in 1988 became its executive director.

While at the helm of the association, Dr. Sims-deGraffenried strengthened the association’s finances, solidified membership, increased the group’s visibility in the advocacy and legislative arena and developed an extensive professional development program for school board members.

“I’ve known Dr. Sims-deGraffenried for three decades or more and she has been a pioneer in many ways,” said

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. “She has not only talked the talk, but she has walked the walk for public education in the state of Alabama.”

Her advocacy on behalf of public education in Alabama earned her the association’s Champion for Children Award in 2004. She has been twice recognized by the American Society of Association Executives with national awards in governmental relations and training programs. The National School Board Association selected her as its recipient of the Thomas A. Shannon Leadership Award for Excellence in School Boards Association Leadership in 2005.

## Dance

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The event is free and open to the public with seating on a first-come, first-serve basis. The show starts at 7 p.m.

The Ethnic Art Ensemble of Guizhou University has been presenting folk music and dances for more than 10 years both at home and abroad.

Wearing vibrant traditional costumes, the ensemble will perform folk dances including the Miao dances “Silver Necklaces,” “Water Girls,” and “Dancing with the Beat of Drums.” Songs presented during the performance will include the Dong Grand Song, “Cicada’s Song,” the Yi folk song “Madrigal on the Grassland”

and the Miao love song “Love in Spring.”

The Confucius Institute at Troy University is part of a global network of institutes in 50 countries dedicated to the promotion and development of Chinese language education, and cultural and business exchange with the People’s Republic of China.

# Honoring employees

University recognizes 45 employees for a combined 600 years of service

There have been numerous changes in 35 years and two Troy University employees have been here to witness all those changes.

William Ed Hicks, associate professor of English, and Peter N. Howard, professor of foreign languages, were honored for the 35 years of service to the University during a recent service pin ceremony. The two received framed photos of the Trojan Warrior Fountain.

During the ceremony, 45 employees were honored for a combined 600 years of service to the University. In addition to Hicks and Howard, six other employees were saluted for 25 years or more of service.

Sharon R. Jackson, an admissions specialist, was honored for 30 years of service.

Those honored for 25 years of service were: Sandra P. Lucas, director of research and public service; Albert S. Glover, assistant professor, english; Deborah C. Hicks, assistant professor, english; Herbert E. Reeves, Dean of Student Services; and, Jeanell Sikes, Coordinator of Faculty Development of global campus.

Those receiving 20-year pins were: Catherine Allard, professor, music; Judy Bazzell, assistant professor from bachelors science program; Bascom Brooms, associate professor, criminal justice; and, Dr. Jack Hawkins, Chancellor of Troy University;

Those receiving 15-year pins were: Mary K. Astone, assistant professor, business programs; Billy Grantham, professor, criminal justice; Kenneth LaBrant, associate professor, foreign languages; Harriett Means, associate professor, social work; Sebrena Moten, assistant professor, business programs; Elizabeth Roberts, associate professor, business office, Phenix City; Edith Smith, associate dean, graduate school, and senior-vice-chancellor-student; John Schmidt, student services; and, Jill McLaney, library assistant.

Those receiving 10-year pins were: Jack Phillips, manager, University pro Shop; Barbara Sanders; Rhonda Brown, assistant professor, college of education; Lawrence Fogelberg, assistant professor, business programs, physical science; Christopher King, associate professor, chemistry; Susan Oliver, assistant professor,

college of education, Troy; Jeanne Wright, associate professor, psychology; and, Jane Wilson, payroll specialist, human resources, Troy.

Those receive five-year pins were: Alicia Bookout, assistant athletic director; Reggie Hicks, distribution clerk, post office; William Minix, director, institutional development; Alyson Steed, assistant, athletic training; Diane Brown, departmental secretary, aerospace; James Hazel, director of media relations, athletic department; Frederick Green, kinesiology and health; Eugene, associate professor, promotion; Katona Hargave, instructor, English; Theresa Johnson, instructor, English; Gweneth Threadgill, lecturer, music; Leila Vaughn, associate professor, psychology; Latricia Weed, associate professor, m s n program, Phenix City; and, Jun Zhang, assistant professor, mathematics.

Service pins are awarded in five-year increments and presented quarterly by the University. Those employees with 5 to 25 years of service receive lapel pins, while those with 30 or more years of service receive a special framed photo.

— by Tiffany Roy

## Homer

**Continued from Page 1** improvement for each academic program, each administrative and educational support activity, each teaching location, and for community service," said Dr. John R. Dew

New information will be added to Homer on a consistent basis. All areas will be updated each fall for the

previous academic year, allowing the institution the opportunity to make the best use of survey data and faculty assessment of student learning outcomes. The fall update will be used to develop the annual Chancellor's Briefings held in January.

The site can be accessed at <http://homer.troy.edu>.

### *Listening sessions for strategic plan scheduled for week ahead*

Upcoming listening sessions for faculty and staff to provide input in the planning of the strategic plan for 2010-2015 are scheduled for :

- Wednesday, Nov. 4, 3 p.m. (Eastern Time), Phenix City Campus
- Thursday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m., Troy Campus, Hawkins Hall.

# Starting a new chapter

Montgomery Campus Librarian Elizabeth Heidemann retires after 18 years of service

Elizabeth Heidemann has seen it a thousand times—a student, wandering the shelves of the Montgomery Campus library, unsure where to even begin on a research paper or other assignment.

And that's where she steps in.



Elizabeth Heidemann says she will miss working with students the most.

“It is so great to help the students,” Heidemann said. “They come in and don’t know where to begin or how to find what they are looking for. I think it is really important to help the students become familiar with the library and how to find the information they can use.”

Heidemann retired at the end of October after 18 years working in the Montgomery Campus library helping people find the information they need.

Dr. Henry Stewart, dean of library services, said Heidemann has been an asset to both students and faculty over the years.

“She began work with Troy University in Montgomery in 1991 as a Reference/Periodicals librarian,” Stewart said. “She has helped many students over the years with simple questions and complex research projects. She aided faculty mem-

bers with their research and always was a wonderful person with whom to work.

“She has been a wonderful asset to Troy University Libraries during her career with the University,” Stewart said.

Heidemann said that over the course of her career she has seen libraries transformed by computers and online research.

“It’s all digital now and it makes it so much easier to find journal articles,” she said. “You just type in the subject that you need.”

Heidemann’s first job at a library was at Northwestern University while she was a student there. It started a lifelong career as a librarian in numerous settings, including a small library branch in New York City.

Heidemann’s husband, Frederick K. Heidemann, was a full-time faculty member in the English Department from 1973 until his death in 1985.

Montgomery Campus Vice Chancellor Ray White said Heidemann has made a lasting impression on many people over the years.

“Elizabeth Heidemann is the epitome of what a librarian should be; cheerful, friendly, kind, knowledgeable and helpful,” White said. “She has a special place in my own heart, but also in the hearts of many of our current and former students, faculty and staff. As my granddaughter once said to me after her visit to the Rosa Parks Library, ‘Ms. Elizabeth is the best librarian in the world.’”

Heidemann said she will miss working with student most, but is looking forward to traveling to visit family during her retirement. She also plans to stay active in her women’s reading group, which is currently reading Dan Brown’s “The Lost Symbol.”

“You just can’t resist a good book,” she said.

— by Matt Clower

## *TROY cleared to offer degree programs to civilians in North Carolina*

Troy University has received approval from the University of North Carolina Board of Governors to offer degree programs to civilian residents of the state, according to Patricia Bush-McManus, director of the University’s Fort Bragg-Fayetteville site.

“This is an outstanding opportunity for Troy University to expand its service to the citizens of North Carolina and we thank the Board of Governors for its decision,” Bush-McManus said. “We have offered degree programs to

members of the military and their dependents at Fort Bragg since 1990, two graduate programs to civilians since 2003, and we look forward to expanding our programs to the Fayetteville community, and throughout the state of North Carolina.”

The Board of Governor’s action allows Troy University to offer to civilians 16 degree programs via the internet — two associate degree programs, seven bachelor degree programs and seven master’s degree pro-

grams — and five master’s degree programs in traditional classroom settings at the Fayetteville Site. Areas of study include business, education, criminal justice, public administration and international relations.

Bush-McManus said Troy University serves approximately 550 students in the Fayetteville area.

“I believe we can double the amount of students we serve within a year or two,” she said. “This opens up a new range of possibilities for growth.”

# A team player

## Health and Human Services' Cindy Boswell wins McKinley Award for October

Cindy Boswell, executive assistant to the dean of Troy University's College of Health and Human Services, has received the University's Vergil Parks McKinley Award for October.

Boswell, who has been a member of the Troy University staff since 2007, received the award during a ceremony on Oct.20 in the Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor on the Troy Campus. Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor, presented the award to Boswell, who was nominated by Dr. Damon Andrew, dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

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, Dr. Andrew said Boswell "consistently goes out of her way to ensure that the needs of others are met."

"Mrs. Boswell has been instrumental in easing my transition into a decanal role at Troy University," said Dr. Andrew, who became dean of the college in 2008. "Mrs. Boswell's organizational and multi-tasking skills are particularly useful in this complex, fast-paced environment. She is a true team player who diligently follows through on each task until completion, even if it means staying beyond normal working hours. I am honored to spend each day at Troy University with my colleague, Cindy Boswell, and I am eternally grateful for all that she does for Troy University."



Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., presents the University's Vergil Parks McKinley Award for October to Cindy Boswell, who serves as executive assistant to the dean of the College of Health and Human Services. Boswell was nominated by Dr. Damon Andrew (left), dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

The award came as a surprise to Boswell.

"I am thrilled and extremely honored to receive this award," Boswell said. "The McKinley Award is the biggest honor. I admire the people who have received it before me and I am honored to be among that group."



**Reward Callers** – Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., congratulates winners of the Reward Caller Awards for the month of October during a recent ceremony on the Troy Campus. Winners, from left to right, are: Beth Sasser of the Graduate School, Kay Sanders of ACCESS and Jane Martin of Marketing and Communications. Not pictured is Kelly Connor, site coordinator in the Southeast Region. Winners of the monthly award, which recognizes the use of courtesy and proper telephone etiquette, receive \$25.

TROY PEOPLE

## Fletcher named director of TROY's Western Region

Dr. Louis L. Fletcher was recently named director of Troy University's Western Region.

Prior to joining TROY, Fletcher spent 20 years in the United States Air Force. In his final active duty assignment, he served as dean of Air Force Space Command's Advanced Space Operations School (ASOPs) in Colorado Springs.

Dr. Fletcher, originally from Washington, D.C., has served all over the world in places such as South Korea, Greenland, Germany, Greece and France.

Dr. Fletcher says his first goal is to increase the recognition of the TROY brand in the western United States. He is focused

on creating sustained viability for the academic sites in his region and expanding TROY's academic offerings throughout the west.

"I am very excited to be part of the TROY family because of all of the great work TROY has accomplished on behalf of the military," Dr. Fletcher said. "I look forward to extending the reach of this great university to civilian communities in the western region as well."

He is accompanied by his wife of 20 years, Jodi, and his two children; Jessica a college sophomore, and Zachary a high school sophomore.



Dr. Louis L. Fletcher

## Activities & achievements

**Dr. William Heisler**, professor of human resources in the Atlantic Region, was a guest columnist in the September 2009 issues of *The Oyster Pointer*, a monthly business publication in Newport News, VA. His column, "Be a good co-worker – Someday you may need help," suggested how to create a more positive work environment with co-workers.

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**Dr. Alicia Whatley**, **Dr. Michael Stewart**, and **Dr. Christi Magrath**, along with former graduate student **Smirti Bhattarai**, all in the Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences, had an article published in the journal *Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management*. The title of the publication was "Cytochrome P450 induction in *Ictalurus punctatus* following exposure to wastewater treatment plant effluent."

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**Dr. Iris Saltiel**, associate professor of educational leadership at the Phenix City Campus, was selected as reviewer for the Educational Leadership Constituent Council, a subgroup of the National Policy Board for Educational Administration to conduct program reviews and make decisions about the quality of educational leadership preparation programs within colleges and universities for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Dr. Saltiel also was recently appointed to the Board of Junior Achievement of Georgia Columbus/West Georgia District.

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An article coauthored by **Dr. Mike Schraeder** and **Dr. David Hoover** of the Sorrell College of Business on the Montgomery Campus has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of *Development and Learning in Organizations*. The article is titled, "Enhancing Organizational Recovery in Tough Times: A Pragmatic Perspective."

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**Dr. Rodger Morrison** of the Sorrell College of Business on the Montgomery Campus has finished his third book. The book *Human-to-Machine Interaction: Historical and contemporary applications of a proposed general model with comparisons to the Human Interpersonal Communications model* was published by VDM Verlag in Saarbrücken, Germany.

The book outlines a holistic comparison between the traditional sender-receiver-message-feedback model of interpersonal communication and elements from a draft model of human-to-machine interaction, noting significant differences relating to will and emotion. Also, applications of both models are made to historical and contemporary examples of numerous different modes of interpersonal communication and machine types.

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**Carol Franks**, associate professor of music, is serving as district governor for Rotary District 6880 this year. Her term as governor runs to June 30, 2010.

As district governor, she is responsible for 50 rotary clubs and over 2,700 Rotarians in the lower half of Alabama. Rotary International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide.

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**Dr. Allen Jones**, associate professor of history, has had his book *Social Mobility in Late Antique Gaul* published by the Cambridge University Press. The book, aimed at historians and students interested in exploring late fifth- and sixth-century Gaul, explores the situation of the non-elite, formulates a social model based on people of all ranks who were acting ways that were socially advantageous to them, such as combining resources, serving at court and participating in ostentatious religious pursuits.

# Southeast Region hands out honors at conference



Troy University's Southeast Region held its annual Site Directors Conference Oct. 27-29 in Pensacola, FL. Several awards were presented during the event. The region includes sites in Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee. 1.) Rick Puckett, site director of the Pensacola Site, receives a Global Campus wall hanging from Dr. Dave White, Southeast Region director, in recognition of the site's recent expansion. 2.) Dr. White and Dr. Earl Ingram, vice chancellor of Global Campus present a High Performance Site Award to Dr. Dionne Rosser-Mims and Bob Bertram of the Covington, GA Site. 3.) Dr. White and Dr. Ingram present a High Performance Site Award to Jessica Blakemore, Philip Perkins and Demetrius Johnson of the Atlanta Site. 4.) Dr. White presents a Most Improved Site Award to Lisa Bennett and Brandi Petho of the Charleston, SC Site. 5.) Dr. White presents a Most Improved Site Award to Kathleen Akers and Kelley Connor of the Clarksville, TN Site. 6.) Dr. White presents a Most Improved Site Award to Velma Rivers, site director of the Jacksonville, FL Site. 7.) Reggie Roberson (right), assistant site director at the Columbus/Ft. Benning Site, receives a Hector Award from former Site Director Bill Glisson.



## Public lecture

‘Ecology of a Cracker Childhood’ author Janisse Ray to speak Nov. 5

Janisse Ray, author of the “Ecology of a Cracker Childhood,” the subject of Troy University’s Common Reading Initiative, will visit classes and conduct a public lecture on Nov. 5.

The public event, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Trojan Center Theater, will be immediately followed by a reception and book signing event, said Dean Eleanor Lee, dean of the First Year Studies at TROY.

The Common Reading Initiative focuses all entering freshmen on one particular book, and then applies group discussions, classroom activi-

ties and lectures to that reading on a University-wide basis. By next fall, that initiative will expand to TROY’s five colleges, with college-specific readings.

“What we want to see as a result of this intense focus on reading is a notable change in the learning environment as well as improvement in student learning outcomes,” Dean Lee said.

“Ecology of a Cracker Childhood” is the first non-fiction book chosen for TROY’s reading initiative, and recounts Ray’s experiences of growing up in a junkyard off U.S. High-

way 1. The book interweaves family history and memoir with natural history writing, in particular descriptions of the ecology of the vanishing longleaf pine forests that once covered the South. The book won the American Book Award, the Southern Book Critics Circle Award, and the Southern Environmental Law Center Award for Outstanding Writing on the Southern environment.

In addition to the public events, Ray will also meet with the University Orientation Class, an English composition class and other student groups while on campus.

## Fall Choral Concert set for Nov. 15

Troy University’s John M. Long School of Music will present its Fall Choral Concert at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15.

The concert that features the Troy University Concert Chorale, The Collegiate Singers and the vocal jazz group frequency will be performed at Bush Memorial Baptist Church on George Wallace Drive in Troy.

“The year’s concert features delightful lullabies, love songs and prayers,” said Dr. Diane Orlofsky, director of university choirs.

The performance is free and open to the public.



**A spirited workplace –** Members of Troy University’s eCampus staff donned costumes on Friday to celebrate their annual Halloween luncheon. Costumes ranged from the traditional Halloween witch and jack-o’-lantern to a referee and Trojan football player. One group of employees even came as a box of crayons (left).