



# TROY TODAY

*A look inside Troy University for faculty and staff*

**April 2, 2010**

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## Benefit roast

Event honors Chancellor Hawkins, raises nearly \$200,000 for scholarship

The food may have been tasty, but the main course at a benefit roast was Troy University Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr.

The Jack Hawkins, Jr. Leadership Scholarship Roast hosted by the University's Board of Trustees and emceed by Retirement Systems of Alabama director Dr. David Bronner, raised nearly \$200,000 for an endowed scholarship established by the trustees in honor of Dr. Hawkins' twentieth anniversary as head of the multi-national university.

Dr. Bronner praised Dr. Hawkins' for his leadership and vision at TROY.

"If you can't inspire, you can't motivate," he said to Dr. Hawkins. "Jack Hawkins has shown this. The change in the environment at Troy University resonates with you."



**Dr. David Bronner, director of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, tells a story during the roast as Dr. and Mrs. Jack Hawkins, Jr. look on. Dr. Bronner served as emcee for the event.**

Slow-roasting Dr. Hawkins was Trustee President Pro-tem Dr. R. Douglas Hawkins; the Rev. Glenda Curry, former Troy

State University Montgomery president and current rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in  
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## *Johnson receives Distinguished Leadership Award*



**Distinguished Leadership Award recipient Dr. Manuel H. Johnson and his wife, Mary, are congratulated by Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., right, and Dr. John Schmidt, Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and External Relations, left.**

Troy University honored economist and former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors Manuel H. "Manley" Johnson with the University's 11th Distinguished Leadership Award.

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., presented Dr. Johnson with the award Saturday night at the annual Alumni Reunion Dinner, which is part of the annual spring reunion. The award was created to recognize the achievements of TROY alumni and friends who have distinguished themselves through exemplary work, philanthropy, leadership and service to their profession, community and alma mater.

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# Mourning a loss

## Founding administrator of Phenix City Campus Curtis Pitts dies

Troy University this week mourns the loss of Dr. Curtis Pitts, the founding administrator of the Phenix City Campus who oversaw more than 30 years of successful growth, development and service to students in the Chattahoochee Valley.

Dr. Pitts died on Wednesday, March 31, at a hospital in Charlotte, N.C., where he had been recovering from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in May of last year.

He led the Phenix City Campus from 1976 until his retirement in March. Under his leadership, the campus emerged as one of the leading providers of higher education to non-traditional students in east Alabama.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Dr. Pitts and with the many people who were touched by

him during his distinguished career,” said Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., TROY



Dr. Pitts

chancellor. “Dr. Pitts was the driving force at our Phenix City Campus. His vision was to provide the greater Phenix City-Columbus area with quality higher education programs, and his dedication has left

a lasting impact on the lives of many students and within the community.”

Visitation is scheduled for Monday, April 5, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. EDT at the Vance Memorial Chapel in Phenix City. The funeral service is scheduled for 11 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, April 6, at the Epworth United Methodist Church in Phenix City.

Burial will be in Pittsview, Ala. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Troy University Foundation in memory of Dr. Pitts.

Dr. Pitts’ tenure at the Phenix City Campus was highlighted by growth on campus and successful fundraising. He oversaw the construction of three academic buildings and developed the popular “live class on tape” distance learning program, which expanded academic programs to students unable to attend class on campus.

Dr. Pitts earned a bachelor’s degree in business from TROY in 1976. He earned an M.B.A from Georgia State University in 1978 and a doctorate in education administration and leadership from Auburn University in 1982.

## Office of Development earns Grand Award for ceremony

Troy University’s Office of Development has earned top honors from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

CASE District III presented its 2009 Grand Award for Special Events to the University for its inaugural TROY Shield Society induction ceremony and gala. The event was judged against other University special events for the year in the southeastern United States.

The organization also presented an Award of Excellence to the Marketing and Communication Office for its “TROY Interactive CD,” an alumni relations tool. The University also received four Special Merit Awards for photography, newsletters and a new recruiting television commercial.

“Many hands are involved in the creative process and we are grateful to each one,” said Dr. John Schmidt, Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and External Relations. “Most of all, we are proud to foster Troy University’s reputation through high-quality media recognized by the various awards.”



CASE District III chair Peter Rooney, vice president for development at Ogelthorpe University, presents the 2009 Grand Award for special events to Troy University development officers (from left to right) Bronda Barron, director of annual giving; Julia Wilson, director of special events and special projects; and Heather Price, director of planned giving, during the awards ceremony at the 2010 CASE III conference in Tampa. TROY’s development team took the top award in special events for the inaugural Shield Society induction ceremony and gala.

In addition to the CASE awards, TROY marketing and advertising efforts have been recognized by other independent organizations, including the Service Industry Advertising

Awards. TROY garnered three Gold Awards in television ad series, radio advertising and newsletter production categories, one Silver Award, three bronze awards and two Merit Awards.

## Former administrator Donald Gibson dies

Former Troy University administrator Donald Gibson, 69, who served the University for 30 years, died March 25. Services were held March 27 in Montgomery.

Mr. Gibson, a native of Greenville, received his baccalaureate and master's degrees from TROY and was presented the Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of West Alabama in 1987. He served Troy University in numerous capacities, including vice president for student affairs, director of governmental affairs and special assistant to the chancellor.

Mr. Gibson was instrumental in the founding of the Eta Phi Chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Van English, a member of the Troy University class of 1982, who now works as a free-lance writer and editor in El Paso, Texas, said Gibson was an outstanding mentor and administrator.

"In working with Don Gibson as a student and as a colleague, I learned more than I could have in any graduate school," said English, former Assistant Dean of Enrollment Services and Author of *Beyond the Normal: The Centennial History of Troy State University*.

Survivors include Mr. Gibson's wife, Carolyn, his daughter, Angela, and two grandsons.



**Visiting Scholar addresses Trustees, Foundation Board** – Troy University's visiting Cambodian scholar and Buddhist monk, the Venerable Kou Sopheap spoke to members of the University's Board of Trustees and the Troy University Foundation Board of Directors at a luncheon March 18 on the Montgomery Campus. Kou said he hoped the experience he gained at TROY would translate into rebuilding Cambodia. "Being ready is the first step to success," he said. "That's true in personal life, educational life or the national life...Troy University has provided me a meaningful experience."

## Roast



Former Trojan and current All Pro linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys DeMarcus Ware speaks during the benefit roast honoring Dr. Hawkins.

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Birmingham; Bruce Higdon, a fraternity brother of Dr. Hawkins' and a Pensacola, Fla.-based corporate safety consultant; Mrs. Janice Hawkins, and Dr. Hawkins' two daughters Katie Hawkins Beall and Kelly Hawkins; and Troy Trojan standout and All-Pro Dallas Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware.

"I didn't understand what it meant to 'think globally and act locally' until I saw how many campuses TROY has and how much (TROY's vision) can achieve," said Ware, crediting Dr. Hawkins for instilling a sense of leadership in him.

"I'm proud of Troy University and I want to thank Dr. Hawkins for his vision and leadership," he added.

The event's goal – set by the trustees at \$100,000 – was exceeded, and donations were still coming in late Wednesday, according to Trustee Lamar P. Higgins, who chaired the roast event committee.

Donations to the scholarship fund will continue to be accepted, Mr. Higgins said.

Thanking the trustees for the evening, Dr. Hawkins deflected the spotlight from himself saying "the most important ingredient (of the roast) is our students."

"Troy University is poised for success. We are proud of the progress we have made and we really believe that the sky is the limit for this great place we call Troy University," he said.

# Professors honored

Drs. Rinehart, Poteat and Hayes recognized for service by U.S. Army

A trio of Troy University professors have been honored by the U.S. Army for their service to the Civil Affairs Branch (CA) and Psychological Operations (PsyOp) community.

Dr. Jim Rinehart, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. George Poteat, a retired associate professor, and Dr. David Hayes, an assistant professor with the University's Atlantic Region, are among those selected as the first class of inductees named as "Honorary Members of the United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Regiment," by order of Secretary of the Army, John McHugh. Also selected, was retired Army Col. Norvell DeAtkine. The ceremony was the highlight of last Thursday's 95th Civil Affairs Brigade Formal at Ft. Bragg.

From 1990 to 2001, Troy University delivered the Master of Science in International Relations degree program with a concentration in Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (SWCS) at Fort Bragg. The program allowed more than 400 officers to complete a Masters degree as a component of their CA or PsyOp advanced training. Drs. Rinehart, Poteat, and Hayes were all professors in the program for much of that time. In addition, TROY was responsible for the operation of the (SWCS) Regional Studies Course; a non-degree certification program that focused on political-military analysis in five major areas of the world.



The U.S. Army Civil Affairs Branch honored three Troy University professors by inducting them into its Hall of Fame in a special ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C. Thursday. Inducted were, from left, Dr. George Poteat, a retired associate professor; Dr. Jim Rinehart, former chair of the University's Political Science Department and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. David Hayes, an assistant professor of international relations; and retired Army Col. Norvell DeAtkine.

"This is a great reflection on the TROY faculty who served the CA and PsyOp community at Fort Bragg in such a distinguished way," said Dr. Earl Ingram, Vice Chancellor of Global Campus, the branch of the University that provides educational opportunities outside of TROY's four Alabama campuses, and operates the University's eCampus.

"Many of the students that we had during those years now comprise the senior leadership of the Civil Affairs Branch," said Dr. Rinehart. "Troy Uni-

versity has a long history of service to the CA community and this recognition solidifies TROY as the school of choice for CA officers seeking their graduate degrees well into the future."

Currently, TROY offers the international relations masters degree on Fort Bragg but also offers expanded undergraduate and graduate degrees through its Fayetteville site. In addition, both military and civilian students access 13 undergraduate degrees and eight graduate degrees through the University's eCampus.

## *TROY professor Buckner set to publish book on black masculinity*

A Troy University history professor is set to publish a book on black masculinity in U.S. history and literature by Ohio State University Press.

"Fathers, Preachers, Rebels, Men: Black Masculinity in US History and Literature, 1820-1945" is an interdisciplinary collection that deals with how black men negotiated issues of masculinity in the era before the mod-

ern Civil Rights movement.

"During slavery and Jim Crow, black men were defined in both law and custom as childlike, slave, and intellectually, physically and morally inferior to whites. This book shows how black men challenged and worked against those notions," said Dr. Timothy Buckner, an assistant professor of history.

He said the idea for the project arose in 2005 with co-author Dr. Peter Caster, an assistant professor of literature and film at the University of South Carolina, both of whom had academic interests dealing with race and gender.

The book will be included in Ohio State's Black Performance and Cultural Criticism Series and is anticipated to be available in summer 2011.

# Award-winning research

Dr. Govind Menon honored for work with black hole astrophysics

Troy University math and physics professor Dr. Govind Menon is being honored by the Naval Research Laboratory's 42nd Annual Alan Berman Research Publication and the Edison Patent Awards.

Dr. Menon is being honored for his work as co-author of a paper entitled "High Energy Radiation from Black Holes: Gamma Rays, Cosmic Rays, and Neutrinos."

"Each year, federal government recipients are formally recognized at an awards dinner held in their honor where their research contributions are cited and they are presented a memento of the occasion," said John A. Montgomery, director of research at the laboratory. "We also acknowledge the presence of our non-federal co-authors in attendance."

In November 2009, Dr. Menon and Dr. Charles Dermer, an astrophysicist in the Space Science Division of the Naval Research Laboratory, presented their theories to the 2009 Fermi Symposium in Washington, D.C., describing black holes as the sources of the highest energy photon and particle radiations.

Their new book, "High Energy Radiation for Black Holes" published by Princeton University Press, presents a systematic exposition of black-hole astrophysics and general relativity in order to understand how gamma

rays, cosmic rays, and neutrinos are produced by black holes.

"I have always been interested in space and time -- which is what a black hole is made of," said Dr. Menon, a professor of mathematics and physics. "I approach these issues from a mathematical point of view while my co-author, in the Naval Research Lab, understands its applications and realizations in nature."

Dr. Govind Menon is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Physics. He came to the University in 1996 as an instructor from the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he served as a graduate teaching assistant.

Menon earned his bachelor's in mathematics from TROY in 1991. He holds both a masters and a doctorate in physics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

His academic concentrations include physical science, general physics, fundamentals of electric fields, mechanics, electromagnetic fields, analytic geometry, optics, modern physics and calculus.

The award was presented at Bolling Air Force Base on March 19.

## Award

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"The success of our alumni speaks volumes about our University," Chancellor Hawkins said. "By any measure Manley Johnson is a successful alumnus—devoted family man, a successful businessman, and a patriot who answered his nation's call."

Others on the program paying tribute to Dr. Johnson were his long-time friend Al Head, Executive Director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts; Mrs. Jo Harvell, Dr. Johnson's sister; Charles Nailen, a Troy University trustee and chairman of the University's Foundation Board, and James Flowers of the City of Troy, representing Mayor Jimmy Lunsford.

Dr. Johnson, a Troy native and a

member of the Troy University class of 1973, said he was grateful to receive the award.

"I appreciate what Troy University has done for me," Dr. Johnson said. "I am proud of the education I received at this University. When I went to graduate school I found it challenging but not intimidating, thanks to the preparation I received here. I have always felt a loyalty to this institution."

Dr. Johnson served as vice chairman of the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors from 1986-1990. He previously served as assistant secretary and deputy assis-



**Johnson**

tant secretary of the U.S. Treasury where he was instrumental in designing the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which represents the most comprehensive change in U.S. tax law in the nation's history. His performance earned him the Treasury Department's Alexander Hamilton Award.

Dr. Johnson served with U.S. Army Rangers and Special Forces units from 1968 to 1971. Following his graduation from TROY, he earned his master's (1974) and doctoral degrees (1977) in economics from Florida State University. From 1977 to 1994, Dr. Johnson served as a professor of economics at George Mason University where he held the Koch Chair in International Economics.

## Activities & achievements

**Dr. Steven L. Taylor**, associate professor of political science, recently published the following entries in *Culture Wars: An Encyclopedia of Issues, Viewpoints, and Voice* (edited by Roger Chapman and published by M. E. Sharpe): “Drudge Report” and “Election of 2000.”

Dr. Taylor also was part of an international team that observed the Colombian congressional elections on March 14 in Bogotá, Colombia. The observation mission was conducted in affiliation with the MOE (Misión de Observación Electoral). The team of observers included citizens from France, Italy, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, and the United States.

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**Drs. Andy Creamer and Karena T. Valkyrie** represented Troy University at the recent National Summit to End Interpersonal Violence in Dallas, TX, Feb. 24-26, and presented a poster entitled: “Why Would She Stay? Empowering Choices.”

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**Dr. Jeff Lee**, associate professor of criminal justice, recently presented his paper entitled “Professional wrestling: Pseudo sport, real death” at the annual Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conference in San Diego, CA. This paper is a continuation of an earlier project that Dr. Lee published in his textbook *Sport and Criminal Behavior*.

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**Dr. Robert Moore**, assistant professor of criminal justice, along with graduate student **Felicity Windham**, recently presented their paper “The impact of sporting events on university students’ binge drinking habits” at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference in San Diego, CA. This paper is currently being reviewed for inclusion in an upcoming textbook related to current topics in criminal justice research.

At this same conference, Dr. Moore’s paper “Let me protect you from yourself: The criminalization of sexting as a form of manufactured child pornography” was presented. This paper is currently under review for publication in a journal dedicated to children and technology.

Dr. Moore and **Dr. Elizabeth McMullan**, assistant professor of criminal justice on the Dothan campus, recently had their article “Neutralizations and rationalizations of digital piracy: A qualitative analysis of university students” published in the most recent edition of *The International Journal of Cyber Criminology*.

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**Georgette Norman**, director of Troy University’s Rosa Parks Museum, will perform “Ashes of Roses,” an original play written by Dr. Norman McMillan, based on the stories

of Alabama author Mary Ward Brown, on March 20 at Marion Military Institute. Norman will perform with Dr. Betty Campbell, a music professor from Judson College, and Dr. Winnifred Cobbs of Greensboro.

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**Judy Davis**, radio operations manager in the Broadcast and Digital Network Department, and her husband Jack have been inducted into the Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame.

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**Dr. Eren Ozgen Adalier**, assistant professor of management in the Sorrell College of Business on the Dothan Campus, has had the work “The collaborative frontiers of social networks in opportunity recognition in convergent technologies,” published in Volume 15 of the Academy of Entrepreneurship Journal.

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**Dr. J. Michael Martinez**, assistant professor of sport and fitness management at the Columbus/Fort Benning Site, served as the lead author on the manuscript, “Intercollegiate Athletics and Institutional Fundraising: A Meta-Analysis,” which appeared in the March issue of *Sport Marketing Quarterly*, one of the top academic journals on sport marketing in the nation.



**Martinez**

The article, which focused on the influence that success has on fundraising revenue within intercollegiate athletics, was co-authored by Jeffrey Stinson, from Central Washington University, and Minsoo Kang and Colby Jubenville, both from Middle Tennessee State University.

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**Dr. Frank Browning**, associate professor of counseling and psychology, recently published a brief article in the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision newsletter.

Dr. Browning’s article “Using Your Counseling Skills to Help the Wounded Warrior” encouraged licensed professional counselors throughout the Southeast to contact Tri-care South indicating their willingness to help needy soldiers and their families. It is estimated that one in three soldiers returning from combat have mental health issues.

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**Dr. Kern Craig**, Master of Public Administration (MPA) faculty member, has had three papers recently accepted for publication. “Simplification: A Single Tax and a Single Entitlement” will be published by the *Journal of US-China Public Administration* in April. “The New World Order: A Deconstruction of the Nation-State and Disaggregation of the Mixed-Political-Economy” will be published by the

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**Pot of Gold search winner** – Dr. Ken Roblee of the Department of Mathematics (left) is presented with a basket of Troy University gifts from Buddy Starling, dean of enrollment management for successfully finding the Pot of Gold during the annual search on March 17. Dr. Roblee followed the clues sent by Starling to locate the Pot of Gold at the entrance to the University Avenue side of the Bibb Graves Quad.

## *Jazz ensemble ‘frequency’ plans free April 5 concert*

Troy University’s vocal jazz ensemble “frequency” will present a free concert at 7 p.m., April 5 at the Cultural Arts Studio, 301 East Walnut St. in downtown Troy.

“frequency” is an auditioned, select vocal jazz ensemble devoted to performance of contemporary choral pieces with an emphasis on stylized and advanced vocal jazz. The concert is presented by TROY’s John M. Long School of Music and the Troy-Pike Cultural Arts Center.

The concert will include performances of jazz standards such as “Blue Skies” and “Come Rain or Come Shine,” musical theatre numbers such as “All I Ask of You” from “The Phantom of the Opera” and “Somewhere” from “West Side Story,” and contemporary arrangements of familiar songs such as “Wayfaring Stranger.”

The members of “frequency” are sopranos Noel Davis, a junior vocal/choral music education major from Eufaula, Meagan King, a sophomore vocal/choral music education major from Ariton, and Sarah Swedenburg, a senior vocal/choral music education major from Montgomery; altos Laura Aaron, a graduate vocal/choral music education student from Bay Minette, and Amanda Graham, a junior political science/theatre major from Pell City; tenors Wes Jackson, a senior music industry major from Huntsville, Jessie Kisor, a sophomore theatre major from Centre, and Josh Wine, a junior instrumental music education major from Wetumpka; and, basses John Baumer, a senior vocal/choral music education major from Altha, and Dale Lawrence, a graduate vocal/choral music education student from Montgomery.

The program for the concert will feature the artwork of Charles Henderson High School senior art student Carley Shelton. Her work was chosen for use on the program’s cover from a selection of artwork submitted by Charles Henderson art students.

## Achievements

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International Journal of Public Administration later in 2010 and “The Blame Game in International Relations” has been accepted for publication in the National Social Science Journal in 2011.

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Dr. Jeff Spurlock, associate director of the Hall School of Journalism and Communications, recently presented the paper “The Television Newsroom Assignment Editor: Finding Candidates for a Not-So Attractive Job” at the Association for Education in Journalism

and Mass Communication’s Southeast Colloquium at Chapel Hill, NC.

Dr. Spurlock also moderated the panel “Community Radio, Fake News, and Rush” at the Colloquium.

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**Dr. Dodie Meier** of Fort Walton Beach and **Dr. Carol Lewis**, Pensacola, counseling and psychology faculty, recently presented a program at the Florida Counseling Association state conference in Miami.

The presentation was “Gambling: Should Seniors Take a Chance?”

## *International film series continues on Dothan Campus*

The Troy University Dothan Campus library will continue its yearlong international film series with movies from Germany and France starting in April.

The next three films shown in the series will be:

- April 7: “Storm” (Germany, 2009)
- May 12: “Welcome” (France, 2009)
- June 16 : “The Grocer’s Son” (France, 2007)

The Dothan Campus library has contracted with Film Movement, a distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films, to host monthly screenings of international films. All movies start at 7 p.m. inside Sony Hall.

The screenings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Library Director Christopher Shaffer at (334) 983-6556, ext. 320.

# Helen Keller Lecture

Stage and screen actor Anthony Natale to speak at annual event on April 6

Stage and screen actor Anthony Natale will deliver the 15th annual Helen Keller Lecture on April 6 at Troy University.

The lecture, which will be held at 10 a.m. in the Claudia Crosby Theater on the Troy Campus, is designed to promote awareness of people who excel in their chosen fields despite physical and/or mental limitations.

The lecture will also be streamed live on the internet for those who are unable to attend. To access the stream, go to

<http://intranet.troy.edu/video/>.

The lecture is sponsored by Troy University, the Alabama State Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, The Helen Keller Foundation for Research and Education, the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama State Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind.

Natale, who is hearing impaired, is known to movie-goers as the man in the elevator during the pivotal scene from "Jerry Maguire," signing "You complete me," to his partner. He starred as the adult son in "Mr. Holland's Opus," the 1995 film featuring Richard Dreyfuss about the profound

effect a dedicated music teacher had on generations of students. His film credits also include appearances in "Dogma," "Sorority Boys," "City of Angels" and "Children of a Lesser God."



Anthony Natale

"We are very excited to have Anthony Natale serve as the speaker for our 15th annual Helen Keller Lecture," said Dr. Mary Anne Templeton, assistant professor of counseling and chair of the Helen Keller Lecture Committee. "As a youth, Mr. Natale discovered the path he wanted to pursue and he did not allow his hearing impairment to deter him. Today, he is not only living out his dream on both the stage and screen, but he is also helping to teach American Sign Language to the general public through personal appearances and the award-winning video 'How to Talk to a Person Who Can't Hear'. Mr. Natale is an inspiration to us all, and we hope the

public will join us for this special event in the life of Troy University."

Natale also has appeared on television in such programs as Lifetime's "Any Day Now," ABC's "Once and Again" and "Ellen," Spelling Production's "7th Heaven," and CBS's "Beauty and the Beast," and has numerous stage credits, including the lead roles in "Tuc's Story," performed at the Sundance Playwright Theater in Utah, and "Brilliant Traces," performed at the Deaf West Theater in Hollywood.

Natale, who is also a sign language translator and consultant, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in film production from California State University Northridge.

Entertainment for the event will be provided by the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind Ensemble made up of Malia Thibado, Timarreo Wood, Tasha Ostrowski and Nicole Gordy.

In addition to the lecture, the University will host an art show featuring artwork created by children from Troy City and Pike County school systems, which will be displayed at the Johnson Center for the Arts in Troy. Awards will be presented at 10 a.m. on April 5.

## *Gee's Bend photography exhibit on display in Dothan*

An exhibit of photographs chronicling life in the rural community of Gee's Bend will be on display at Troy University's Dothan Campus through April 7.

"Looking Back at Gee's Bend: The Photographs of John Reese" consists of 40 black-and-white photographs taken during the late 1970s and early 80s that depict life in the isolated community in Alabama's Black Belt region.

The photos are currently on display at the Dothan Campus inside the Gallery Hall on the first floor of the Library/Technology Building. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Isolated by a bend in the Alabama River and difficult roads, Gee's Bend remained relatively free of modern outside influences for decades. Reese's photographs capture life in Gee's Bend in the last years before the community became world famous for its unique quilts, said Dr. Martin Olliff, director of the Archives of Wiregrass History and Culture at the Dothan Campus.

"This is a very important exhibit because it captures images of a fading way of life," Olliff said.

The traveling exhibit is part of the Birmingham Public Library Department of Archives and Manuscripts.