



TROY TODAY

A look inside Troy University for faculty and staff

January 26, 2011

Leadership Conference

Bishop Vashti McKenzie to deliver keynote address at 10th annual event

The first woman elected to the office of Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church will deliver the keynote address for the 10th annual Leadership Conference Observing Black History Month, set for Feb. 4-5 at Troy University.

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie was elected to Episcopal office in 2000 and later in 2004, became the first woman to lead the denomination when she was elected as president of the Council of Bishops. Bishop McKenzie serves the 13th Episcopal District, which includes the states of Tennessee and Kentucky. She will deliver the keynote

address in the conference's opening session, which will



**Bishop Vashti
Murphy McKenzie**

begin at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 4 in the Trojan Center Theatre. Co-sponsored by the University and the City of Troy, the Leadership Conference annually brings together civic and community leaders, clergy and business leaders in a collaborative and educational forum. This year's event will be held

in the Trojan Center on the Troy Campus.

Registration is \$30, and the deadline to register is Jan. 26. Online registration can be accessed at www.troy.edu. Troy University students may attend the conference for a \$15 registration fee. For additional information, contact the University's Institute of Leadership Development at 334-670-5686.

The conference will resume on Feb. 5 with plenary sessions for community leaders and for college students scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon.

The plenary session leaders are:

See CONFERENCE, Page 3

Inside Today

- TROY News 2
- TROY People 5
- Around TROY 8



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Employment application process goes paperless

Troy University's Human Resources Department has implemented a new system that will make the University's position management and job application process paperless and more efficient.

The new system, People Admin, went into effect this month. Applicants for open positions will now submit their applications online where they can be easily accessed and tracked through the hiring process.

The new system provides many benefits, including an annual cost savings of approximately \$7,000 in the first year and \$15,000 each

subsequent year, according to Dr. Toni Taylor, Senior Director of Human Resources.

"Internally, the People Admin system enables us to implement a paperless method of position management, which is in keeping with our paperless initiative within the University's strategic plan," Dr. Taylor said. "It will also make the process more efficient through automated posting of positions and acceptance of applications. From the applicants side, the process is now completely electronic. Applications are submitted and reviewed online and applicants can view updates on the sta-

tus of their application and on open positions. Not only is it a more efficient, but it also is more professional in appearance and process."

Dr. Taylor said other benefits include: the reduction of time spent in processing personnel actions; improvement of workflow in the recruitment and selection process; and automation of applicant data and job postings.

Open positions can now be viewed at www.troyuniversityjobs.com. For additional information about the new system, contact the Human Resources Department at 334-670-3710.

Chancellor's Fellows

Four selected for 2011 class of leadership development program

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., has announced the selection of four faculty and staff members to participate in the 2011 Chancellor's Fellows Program.

Selected were: Dr. Deb Gearhart, director of the University's eCampus; Dr. Denise M. Green, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work on the Troy Campus; Kimberly Jones, director of institutional research on the Troy Campus; and, Dr. Isabelle Warren, chair of the Department of Education on the University's Phenix City Campus.

The fellows were nominated by TROY deans, directors or vice chancellors and selected by the Chancellor to participate in the program based on leadership potential and past service to the University.

The experience spans the spring and summer semesters during which the fellows will have the opportunity to visit other campuses, benefit from briefings and meetings with senior University officials and take part in several field trips and visits with state



Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., recently announced the selection of four TROY employees for the 2011 Chancellor's Fellows Program. Pictured from left to right are: Dr. John Kline, director of the University's Institute for Leadership Development and director of the program; fellow Dr. Isabelle Warren, chair of the Department of Education on the University's Phenix City Campus; fellow Dr. Denise M. Green, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work on the Troy Campus; Chancellor Hawkins; fellow Dr. Deb Gearhart, director of the University's eCampus; and Kimberly Jones, director of institutional research on the Troy Campus.

education officials, business leaders and state government officials.

The fellows recently completed a week of executive leadership and management training and meetings with

Chancellor Hawkins, the Senior Vice Chancellors and other university leaders. Furthermore, each of the fellows will be mentored by one of the four Senior Vice Chancellors.

Meet the Fellows

Dr. Deb Gearhart is director of eCampus and has worked in the field of distance education for 24 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master's in adult education and a Master of Public Administration from Penn State, and a doctorate in education with a certificate in distance education from Capella University.

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Dr. Denise M. Green is assistant professor and chair of the Departments of Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work, director of Social Work and director of the

Bureau of Evaluation, Administration and Development for the College of Health and Human Services. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, a master's in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a doctorate in social work from the University of Georgia.

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Kimberly Jones is director of Institutional Research on the Troy Campus and has been a member of the Troy University staff since 1995. She holds a bachelor's degree in

computer science/business administration and a master's in counseling and psychology, both from TROY.

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Dr. Isabelle Warren is an assistant professor and chair of the Education Department on the Phenix City Campus. She holds a bachelor's degree in secondary political science from Auburn University, a master's in early childhood education from Columbus State University, an education specialists degree in elementary education from TROY and a doctorate in youth and childhood studies from Nova Southeastern University.

University celebrates opening of second location in Texas

Troy University opened a new site in El Paso, Texas in November, marking the first time the University's Western Region has operated two sites in one state. The other Texas site is located in San Antonio.

The new site will serve TROY eCampus students in western Texas and throughout the state of New Mexico.

Close to 75 visitors shared in the grand opening celebration to learn more about the University.

Officials of the Chamber of Commerce and a representative of the district's congressional office were also on hand. The famous El Paso Star that overlooks the city, was lit that evening in honor of TROY's grand opening.

Mike Moore serves as the site's coordinator, and Courtney Collins is the site's student services coordinator.



El Paso Chamber of Commerce representative, Mark Ropella, helps celebrate the opening of TROY's newest site with Mike Moore, Courtney Collins and Dr. Louis Fletcher, director of the Western Region.

Conference

Continued from Page 1

- Bishop S.D. James, founder of the S.D. James Evangelistic Association, Inc.

- Dr. Kenneth Anderson, nationally certified counselor with more than 30 years in the mental health profession and dean of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division at Calhoun Community College, the largest two-year school in Alabama.

- Dr. Calvin Mackie, professional speaker and founder of Channel ZerO, an educational and motivational consulting company.

- Jason Branch, founder of JBranch & Associates, which provides counseling services for adults, adolescents and families.

- Eric Thomas, youth activist, speaker, author and motivator.

The event will conclude with a luncheon and awards ceremony. The luncheon will begin at noon on Feb. 5.



Toys for Tots – The Dothan Campus made a presentation of toys and gifts to the Wiregrass Toys for Tots campaign shortly before the holiday break. Pictured left to right are Mike Walton, Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Coordinator and Dothan Campus staff members Joanne Krist, Gayla White, Sandra Hatfield-Sauls and Keith Seagle.

Museum plans events to honor Parks

Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum will celebrate the birthday of Rosa Parks on Friday, Feb. 4, by opening to free tours for the day.

Visitors can tour the museum at no charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, the museum will mark Parks' birthday with several special events and activities, including:

- A special activity for youth called "Hearts for Rosa" in which guest will be asked to decorate paper hearts with messages to Rosa Parks which will then be displayed in the museum.

- The St. Jude Educational Institute Choir will deliver a free concert at noon inside the museum auditorium.

- Prior to the concert, at 11:30 a.m., the museum will unveil a portrait of Rosa Parks created using peace flags painted by students at Ruben Dario Middle School in Miami, FL.

Also that day, the Montgomery Housing Authority will unveil the finished painting of Rosa Parks' historic Cleveland Court apartment done by artist Ted Ellis during a live painting event in Montgomery on Jan. 14.

Thank you notes

Dear Troy University Family,
I just want to say thank you and to let everyone know again how much I appreciate your support during our accident.

Your kind words, company and prayers really mean so much to me and my family. Thank you again for your invaluable help and support.

Sincerely,

Christy and Robby Morrow

...

Thank you for attending the services and the floral gift card you sent to honor my Dad.

I really appreciate you taking the time to come and share in the remembrance of my Dad.

Although this is a sad time for all of us, I find comfort in knowing how fortunate I am to have my Trojan Family.

God Bless each of You!

Dr. Deb Fortune

School of Nursing to host NLNAC site review Feb. 9

Troy University School of Nursing wishes to announce that it will host a site review by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission for continuing accreditation of its baccalaureate and master's nursing programs and initial accreditation of its clinical doctorate program.

You are invited to meet the visit team and share your comments about the program in person at a meeting scheduled for Feb. 9, 5-5:30 p.m. in the Collegeview Building, Room 141, Troy University School of Nursing, 400 Pell Ave., in Troy.

Written comments are also welcome and should be submitted directly to: Dr. Sharon Tanner, Chief Executive Officer, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326 or email: sjtanner@nl nac.org.

All written comments should arrive at NLNAC by Feb. 3.

TROY officials attend Confucius Institute Conference

Troy University was well represented at the fifth Confucius Institute Conference held in Beijing, China, Dec. 10-12.

Dr. Hong Xu, director of the Confucius Institute at TROY, and Chen Xiaofeng, deputy director, both attended the conference. Both agreed that presentations during the conference, along with discussions with officials from the University's partner, Hebei Normal University of Science and Technology, provided sound guidance for the further development of the institute at TROY.

Dr. Curt Porter, associate vice chancellor for international programs at TROY, presented during the conference on how Confucius Institutes raise and manage money.

The conference also included greetings from Yuan Guiren, Minister of Education, a speech by State Councilor Liu Yandong and presentations by students from various Confucius Institutes.

Attending the conference from Hebei, TROY's partner University, were: Tang Shengling, president, and Dongfang Yang, director of the Division of International Exchange and Communication.



Dr. Curt Porter, associate vice chancellor of international programs at Troy University (pictured far right), takes part in a presentation on "How Confucius Institutes Raise and Manage Funds" during the fifth Confucius Institute Conference in Beijing, China, Dec. 10-12.

Dedicated and conscientious

Institute for Leadership Development's Brown receives McKinley Award for December

Donna R. Brown, departmental secretary for the Institute for Leadership Development at Troy University, has received the University's Vergil Parks McKinley Award for December.

Brown, who has been a member of the Troy University staff since 2008, received the award Tuesday during the annual faculty/staff Christmas luncheon on the Troy Campus. Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor, presented the award to Brown, who was nominated by Dr. John A. Kline, professor and director of the Institute for Leadership Development.

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. Kline commended Brown for her dedication and service to students.

"Donna Brown is absolutely one of the most dedicated, conscientious, likeable people at Troy University," Dr. Kline said. "In the two years she has been with the Institute for Leadership Development, Donna has ensured the success of a new Leadership Minor. Mrs. Brown also does a stellar job making arrangements, working hard to ensure the success of the many conferences administered by the Leadership Institute. Donna



Donna Brown, departmental secretary of the Institute for Leadership Development at Troy University, receives the University's Vergil Parks McKinley Award for December on Tuesday, from Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor, (left) and Dr. John A. Kline, director of the Institute for Leadership Development.

Brown is a winner – one who epitomizes the qualities that make her unquestionably highly deserving of the McKinley Award."

Brown said she was honored to receive the award.

"I was completely surprised," Brown said. "This was totally unexpected. Words can not express how truly honored I am to receive this award."



Reward Callers – Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. congratulates winners of the Reward Caller Awards for December during the annual faculty-staff Christmas luncheon on the Troy Campus. Winners of the awards, from left to right, are: Sarah McKenzie of Modern Languages and Classics, Kelli Bullard of Marketing and Communication and Abi Welch of Human Resources. Winning but not pictured is Carrie Reif of Journalism and Communication. The monthly award honors the use of proper phone etiquette and courtesy. Winners receive \$25.

Activities & achievements

Dr. Leora Waldner and **Dr. Murray Widener** of the Southeast Region, along with Dr. Sue McGorry of DeSales University, have published their research on extreme service learning in the MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching, December 2010, Vol. 6, No. 4. The article, entitled “Extreme E-Service Learning (XE-SL): E-Service Learning in the 100% Online Course” demonstrates that service learning can work well in cases where both the instruction and the service occur in a fully online format.

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Dr. Jim Vickrey, professor of speech communication on the Montgomery Campus, has been elected to the Boards of the Capital City Club and the Downtown YMCA, and the Board of Editors of the Alabama Bar, which produces the ALABAMA LAWYER. He has also been selected to chair a panel and present a paper on First Amendment law at the 2011 annual convention of the Southern States Communication Association.

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Dr. Dodie Meier, assistant professor in Counseling and Psychology in the Southeast Region, has provided a soft skills presentation on managing holiday stress in Northwest Florida IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group 2010’s annual meeting on Dec. 13. The meeting was coordinated by **Dr. Xiaoli Huan**, assistant professor in Computer Science at Southeast Region. IEEE is the world’s largest professional association for the advancement of technology. IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) is dedicated to important issues for Women Engineers and supports women in the math and science fields from youth to professional and beyond.

In the presentation, Dr. Meier provided extensive experience with building emotional health and helpful techniques to reduce the stress that holidays can bring.

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Drs. Dodie Meier and **Dionne Rosser-Mims** of the University’s Southeast Region co-presented at the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE). The presentation title was: “The Navigator: Transforming the Adult Learner’s Educational Journey.” The conference took place in Clearwater, FL, Oct. 24-29.

In addition, Dr. Rosser-Mims presented “Back to our Roots: The Parent Degree Educational Model” at the conference.

Dr. Rosser-Mims also presented another paper at the International Leadership Association’s Annual Conference held in Boston in October. The title of the paper was: “Study of Black Female Political Leadership Development.”

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Dr. Isabelle L. Warren, chair of the Education Department on the Phenix City Campus, hosted Autism Research Institute (ARI) Training for Phenix City Intermediate School teachers, as well as an Autism workshop for Phenix City School System special education teachers.

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Counseling and Psychology faculty, **Drs. Lamon Small, Greg Dawson** and **Carol Lewis**, hosted a research poster session at the Pensacola site on Dec. 8. As guests, faculty and fellow students moved from poster to poster, students described their research projects. Mental health professionals from the Pensacola area who attended were awarded two complimentary CEU credits.



Montgomery Campus honors – The Montgomery Campus presented awards to outstanding faculty and staff members during its annual Christmas luncheon on Dec. 15. The awards were presented by Ray White, vice chancellor of the Montgomery Campus. Top left, White presents the Most Outstanding Faculty Award to Rodger Morrison of the Sorrell College of Business. Top center, the Most Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award is presented to Myron Ross of Information Technology. Top right, Helen Frost, administrative assistant in the Office of the Campus Vice Chancellor, receives the Most Outstanding Professional Staff Award. At left, the Most Outstanding Full-time Classified Staff Award is presented to Sandy Montgomery of the Purchasing Office.



Dothan Campus honors – The Dothan Campus presented awards to the outstanding faculty and staff members of the year during an awards ceremony on Dec. 8. Dr. Kristin Ross received the Outstanding College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Award, and Maria Thigpen won the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award. Pictured (top left) from left to right are: Dr. Don Jeffrey, campus vice chancellor; Dr. Ross, Thigpen and Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Robert Saunders. The Outstanding College of Business Faculty Award went to Dr. Dan Teed and the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award went to J.C. Lewis. Pictured (top right) from left to right are Dr Jeffrey, Lewis, Dr. Teed and College of Business Dean Dr. Khamis Bilbeisi. The Outstanding Professional Staff awards were presented to Melissa Wilson, executive assistant to the vice chancellor, and Elisa Paramore, student support services counselor. Lisa Pearson, switchboard operator, won the Outstanding Classified Staff Award. Pictured (at left) from left to right are Dr. Deborah Pettway, director of student support services, Dr. Jeffrey, Paramore, Wilson and Pearson. Not pictured are College of Education honorees Dr. Virginia Mayer (Faculty Award) and Dr. James Windle (Adjunct Award).

Journalism’s Kirby travels to Israel with jazz team

Troy University journalism lecturer David “Doc” Kirby lets his trumpet do his talking, rather than his pen.

His latest travels in November took him to Israel as part of a jazz team through the Global Missions Project. Previous trips have taken him to Cuba, Brazil, Greece, Russia, Finland and the Ukraine – in addition to a Nashville, Tenn., recording session.

“Music gives you a way to connect with people who are very different than yourself – even those who are hostile at first,” he said. “It is truly an international language.”

During the trip, Kirby and the band played concerts in Bethlehem, Tel



Kirby

struggle for dominance, to play jazz music for visitors and residents alike is a great blessing,” said Kirby.

The group visited Megiddo, a

Aviv, Tiberius and Jerusalem – seven concerts in all; and toured several historic sites.

“To see these sites, to walk where three great faiths

5,000-year old city overlooking the valley of Armageddon, hiked the Masada, floated in the Dead Sea, rode a boat in the Sea of Galilee, and visited Capernaum, as well as “walked streets in Jerusalem built by the Crusaders in the 12th century.”

Kirby, who earned a Bachelor of Music Education and a master’s degree in theater education at TROY, is a long-time news director at WTBF radio in Troy. He is a member of the Troy University #1 Jazz Ensemble, a charter member of the Southeast Alabama Community Band and a member of the Troy University Alumni Band.

‘Cowboy Mike’

Augusta State professor to speak on legacy of black cowboys at Dothan, Troy campuses

Audience members will learn more about the legacy of black cowboys in the American west with the help of “Cowboy Mike” during a free lecture on Sunday, Feb. 6, sponsored by Troy University.

The event will start at 3 p.m. at the Dothan Campus inside the Sony Hall auditorium in the Library/Technology Building. Admission is free and open to the public.

“Cowboy Mike” is the persona

created by Augusta State University history professor Michael Searles to help audiences better understand the Western experiences of black cowboys. As Cowboy Mike, Searles dresses in authentic Western gear and displays his collection of Western artifacts including chaps, spurs, lariat and branding iron.

His presentations explore the rich lore of the west while dispelling many myths.

“As ‘Cowboy Mike,’ Professor

Searles is more than a lecturer,” said Library Director Chris Shaffer. “His performance is truly unique and it leaves the audience spellbound while exploring the important contributions made by African Americans to the history of the American West.”

Searles will also appear as “Cowboy Mike” during a presentation at the Troy Campus on Monday, Feb. 7, at 8 a.m. in the Trojan Center Theater.

Museum exhibit features paintings of Ted Ellis

An exhibit featuring the work of artist Ted Ellis, whose paintings explore the life and culture of African Americans in the south, is ongoing at Troy University’s Rosa Parks Museum through Feb. 24.

“Our History, Heritage and Culture: An American Story, the Art of Ted Ellis,” includes scenes of southern African American life during the early 20th century, as well as portraits of notable figures including Louis Armstrong and President Barak Obama.

Born in New Orleans, Ellis is a self-taught artist currently based out of Texas. Known for his impressionist style of painting, Ellis’s art has sold more than 1 million prints and posters worldwide, and he has completed commissions for several major corporations including Walt Disney Studios and Coca-Cola.

On Jan. 14, Ellis created a live, on location painting of Rosa Park’s Cleveland Avenue Apartment. He also conducted a children’s workshop on Jan. 15, working with Montgomery area youth to create a group painting that will be on permanent display at the Rosa Parks Museum.



Artist Ted Ellis answers questions from E.D. Nixon Elementary School students during the live painting event. A group of about 50 students watched as Ellis worked on a painting of Rosa Park’s Cleveland Avenue Apartment on Jan. 14 and discussed his artistic technique and inspiration. “Our History, Heritage and Culture: An American Story, the Art of Ted Ellis,” which features paintings of life and culture of African Americans in the South, is currently on exhibit at the Rosa Parks Museum through Feb. 24.

For more information about the exhibit or upcoming events, contact museum curator Viola Moten at (334) 241-8701. The exhibit hall at the

Rosa Parks Museum is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.