



ADVANCING TROY

A NEWSLETTER FOR TROY UNIVERSITY DONORS & SUPPORTERS

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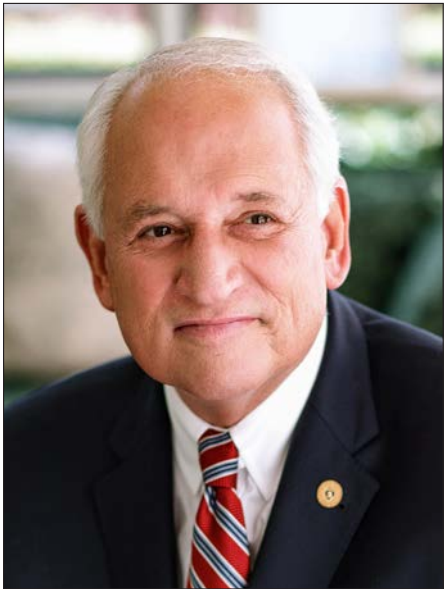


Chad Jones Leads by Example

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 | Scarboroughs Give Generous Endowed Scholarship 6 | TROY's Xi Beta Chapter Creates Opportunity for Members and Alumni
8 | Alumni Board Endows Legacy Scholarship 10 | Football Alum Marty Gilley Gives Back

A Message From Chancellor Hawkins




The 2021 year has gotten off to a busy and productive start at Troy University. Our students are doing exceptional work, the faculty are winning prestigious awards, and our academic programs continue to be ranked nationally. Below you will see a listing of some of the accolades earned during the past year.

Our alumni and donors remain committed to TROY, and I commend each of you for your gifts and benevolence to support all the important work that is happening on campus. I know you are as proud of your alma mater as I am, and you show it through your generosity for which we are deeply grateful.

Inside this issue of Advancing TROY, you will find stories that highlight several great Trojans who are making a difference by their giving. You will read how Chad Jones is “paying it forward” with a legacy gift to assist first-generation students like himself. You will learn how Sherri and Barry Scarborough endowed a scholarship because they understand the value of college life as well as the academic experience. And you will read how a group of alumni who founded the TROY chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha are continuing their role of mentorship and brotherhood work through a scholarship. These are only a few of many exciting donor stories we are proud to tell.

If a University is measured by the success of its alumni, and I believe that is the case, then these are indeed the best of times for Troy University. Thank you all for your continued support of Troy University.

Warmest Regards,


Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D.
Chancellor

TROY Named Among the Most Innovative Universities in the South

- TROY was one of only 134 schools ranked in the publication’s 2021 “Best Regional Universities South” list, and was among the top 20 “Most Innovative Universities South” ranking.
- TROY was also recognized in the publication’s “Best Value” rankings among regional universities in the south, as well as a “Best College for Veterans.”
- U.S. News & World Report “Best Colleges” rankings, now in its 36th year, assess 1,452 U.S. bachelor’s degree-granting institutions on 17 measures of academic quality, including graduation and first-year student retention rates, faculty resources, student-faculty ratio, financial aid and student debt. Demographic and campus life data also are collected as part of the ranking process.
- The recognition by U.S. News & World Report is just the most recent ranking to include the University. In August, TROY was ranked among The Princeton Review’s “Best of the Southeast” for the 16th consecutive year, and earlier this year, U.S. News recognized several of the University’s degree programs among the nation’s best.
- “This recognition from U.S. News & World Report is evidence of the commitment Troy University has made to serving students and preparing them to be both globally aware and globally competitive,” said Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. “Innovation is woven into the very fabric that makes up Troy University, and we believe those efforts pay great dividends for our students.”

U.S. News & World Report Again Recognizes TROY’s Online Degree Programs Among Nation’s Best



U.S. News & World Report has recognized several of TROY’s online degree programs as being among the best in the nation. Overall, TROY ranked 75th in the publication’s “Best Online Bachelor’s Programs” and 50th in the “Best Online Bachelor’s Programs for Veterans.” The master’s program in criminal justice ranked 15th in the “Best for Veterans” category and 26th overall. TROY was also ranked in the “Best Online Master’s in Business Programs for Veterans (Excluding MBA);” “Best Online Master’s in Business;” “Best Online Bachelor’s Business Programs;” “Best Online Master of Business Administration Programs;” “Best Online Master’s Programs in Nursing;” and “Best Online Master’s in Education Programs.”

Jones Leads by Example: True to TROY Spirit by Giving Back

Chad Jones ('98 Marketing) found a way to “pay it forward” at a university that changed his life.

One of the first in his family to graduate college, Jones knows first hand the financial struggles families face when it comes time to send children on to higher education. He remembers well the discussion at his mother’s breakfast table when pencil was put to paper, and the tally came up a little short.

“I was fortunate to have people who rallied behind me,” he said. “I want students to be able to go to college without worrying about the financial means. TROY benefitted me, and I wanted to pay it forward.”

Now President and CEO of First Bank of Alabama based in Talladega, Jones is helping other TROY students by making a \$300,000 legacy gift to establish the J. Chad Jones Leadership Scholarship. This scholarship will help future high school students in his bank’s service area, which currently serves Talladega, Calhoun, Clay, Randolph, and soon, Chilton counties.

“Chad Jones’ commitment to achievement is indicative of the ‘servant leader’ brand of leadership that is taught at Troy University. He is a model any Trojan could follow, and future students will benefit from his example,” said Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr.

When Jones made it to TROY, he immediately found his home away from home.

“From day one of coming onto campus for summer orientation, I met some friends who are still close to me today,” he said.

Jones found an opportunity in the TROY Greek life that impacted his life immensely.

“It was not what it was going to be like in the movies, where it was promoted as a party scene,” he said. “The fraternity was promoted to me as building leadership qualities within its members. I received a leadership scholarship, and I wanted to really build upon that.”

Build, he did. Through the mentorship of Jason Reeves, now mayor of the city of Troy, Jones became involved in the Interfraternity Council, becoming its president as well as president of his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

“I learned the way of the campus through Jason’s mentorship and through leadership qualities I was naturally picking up from others,” said Jones. “I met a lot of people who helped me.”

Relationship building and the ability to multi-task became somewhat of a skillset for Jones. In 1996, Jones, who was working at the Troy Country Club, had a chance to start working at Troy Bank and Trust, thanks to then President Gary Guthrie. By 1997, Jones was working full time at the bank, carrying a full-time academic load, while also being IFC president and his fraternity’s president.

Jones learned how to have a positive impact on others, something he learned from TROY faculty members.

He began as an accounting major, but the late Chuck Thompson, former TROY economics professor, quickly spotted a rare talent in the would-be accounting student: the ability to build relationships.

An avid golfer, along with his wife Tracy, Thompson had gotten to know Jones at the country club.

“He held me after class one day and asked me my major, then asked what in the world I was going to do with accounting. ‘You have no idea what accountants do. Come on with me, we’re going to change your major.’ That’s when I changed to marketing,” Jones said. “He helped guide me, and it was his conversation with Gary Guthrie that got me to that graduation date. He told Gary to encourage me to pay attention in his class.”

There were other professors, too, that impacted him along the way: Jean Laliberte, Steve Garrett and Robert Earl Stewart, among them.

“I wasn’t the best student, but I did get the concept. I think my gift was not on the academic side but in the relationship side through putting people together,” he said, noting a story from after his graduation when he had taken a banking job with First Union Bank in Savannah.

“I came back to see Chuck Thompson after being gone about a year or so. I busted into his class and said, ‘Hey, Chuck, I finally get it. I get what you said about supply and demand,’” he said.

“That was the good point about being at TROY. I had that sort of relationship with my professors. Troy professors cared about you and saw things in you that you didn’t see in yourself.”

That may be at the very root of Jones’ desire to steer at least a few students to the TROY experience.

“Students need to understand that there’s hope. You can come from a single-parent family, or under-privileged family and be the first to graduate. Taking the step to obtain your degree is one of the ‘best first choices’ you make because it will change the trajectory of your life,” he said. “I can’t imagine how my life would have turned out if I hadn’t made the decision to go to college. My mom was a postal clerk, and my dad was a pole climber for Alabama Power. I wanted something different for myself and they wanted something different for me as well.”

His advice to students is even if you are shy, get involved and show your personality.

“I always thought of myself as shy until I got to TROY, and then it was like I was reborn,” he said. “Students need to understand they have the opportunity to be ‘first’ in whatever they want to try.”

“It was a pleasure to work with Chad and assist him with his legacy gift,” said Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development. “TROY is truly proud of the wonderful leader that Chad has become and how he exhibits that leadership daily in his career, community and as a role model for his children. From our first meeting, he shared with me how TROY influenced his life, and now he is giving back through a legacy gift so that others will have that same opportunity. It is a wonderful testament to his character.”

To learn more about how you can establish a legacy gift, please contact Winton Smith or Becky Watson at 334-670-3608.



Chad Jones

“Chad Jones’
commitment to
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Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr.

Sherri and Barry Scarborough Give Generous Endowed Scholarship to TROY Students

Sherri and Barry Scarborough landed together at Troy State University in 1986 through a twist of fate and with the help of a Ford Ranger pickup truck.

Sherri came to TROY with her best friend from Haines City, Florida, after her friend had received a scholarship. However, just two days before classes were to start, Sherri's friend left TROY to get married.

"I see her getting in the car with her much-older boyfriend and they went off and got married. I didn't know anybody and was going to transfer, then I met some friends, had a blast and I found I loved TROY, so I made the decision to stay," Sherri said.

It was after Sherri returned home for Christmas break, that Barry and his Ford Ranger came into play, having a much bigger role in the couple's life than either could have known at the time. Sherri said she and Barry knew each other in high school and had dated some but broke up before their senior year. They knew each other's family members and friends, but over that first Christmas break, they started to date again.

Sherri's mother bought a dorm refrigerator and enlisted Barry to deliver it to TROY in his Ford Ranger.

"He unloaded the refrigerator and took it to my room and said, 'where's the admission's office around here,'" she said. And that was the beginning of their story at TROY and life ever after.

"I knew I was going to go to college somewhere, and TROY seemed like a good idea once I got there and saw it," Barry said. "Of course, Sherri being there probably didn't hurt my decision-making process either," he adds.

Both readily admit they had a lot of fun at TROY and that they both felt it was time to give back, hoping to make the TROY experience available to another student from Polk County, Florida.

They have established The Sherri Ingram Scarborough and Barry Scarborough Leadership Endowed Scholarship through a generous gift of \$136,000 in stock, with preference given to students from Polk County with at least a 2.8 GPA. This scholarship will allow a student to receive a \$5,000 annual scholarship and will be renewable for all four years of the student's time at TROY.

"TROY is very appreciative of the Scarboroughs' generosity for this endowed scholarship. It is an outstanding legacy for both of them to give to a deserving student and shows that Sherri and Barry truly understand the value and importance of experiencing college life as well as getting a top-notch education," says Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor of Development. "Sherri and Barry are a fun-loving couple, who clearly appreciated their time at TROY as well as their academics and professors and want to offer that same experience to other students. This gift will impact many generations of future TROY students and we are grateful to the Scarboroughs for their benevolence and love for Troy University."

"We have the funds to do it, and I think it's great to help a student go to school that otherwise couldn't afford college," said Sherri, now an attorney and partner in the law firm of Howell and Thornhill, P.A.

"We have been blessed with good fortune and good jobs, and I think we have always tried to give back. What better way than to give someone the resources to help make something of themselves. And that starts with the college degree," she said.

Barry echoes these sentiments, adding that their desire was to make a scholarship available to a wider section of students that really needed the assistance, which is why they stipulated a 2.8 GPA. "Not all students test well, especially on standardized tests like the ACT and SAT, so we wanted to make sure the students that really needed the assistance were eligible to receive the scholarship. It sort of evens the playing field for the applicants."

After TROY, Barry built a 30-year career in the insurance industry as the marketing representative for the entire state of Florida for Rain and Hail Crop Insurance, from which he retired in 2018. He is now a third-generation owner of a Badcock Furniture franchise and also manages the family's rental properties.

"TROY was definitely a big part of our early life together," Barry said.

Part of that TROY-driven impact was social, and part of it academic for the Scarboroughs. Barry was president of the Lambda Chi Alpha pledge class and remained actively involved in the fraternity throughout his tenure. Sherri was a Lambda Chi Little Sister and played intramural sports with a Little Sisters team until her last year or two, when most Little Sisters had become affiliated with sororities. She was elected to Who's Who her senior year.

It wasn't all fun and games for the pair though. They paid attention to their academics.

Sherri was one of very few economics majors, and Barry majored in marketing.

"(Professor Ed) Merkle was the one. I took him the most," Sherri said. "He made me his economics tutor, but nobody really came to be tutored. I struck a deal with the accounting tutor to help with accounting and I'd help him with econ, so it worked out for the two of us."

"I enjoyed TROY, and I like that it's smaller. I wasn't another number," Sherri said. "The classes weren't that big, and the teachers were really open."

"Steve Garrott made the biggest impact on me in those marketing

classes. I admired him and looked up to him, and Don Walker had a huge impact on me outside the classroom. He had faith in me," Barry said.

Sherri was in the first graduating class of the Hawkins era in 1989. Barry graduated in the summer of 1990.

While the Scarboroughs now reside in Winter Haven, Florida, they say that Troy University is an important part of their legacy and start in life. "TROY had a big impact on both of our lives, and we wanted to make it available to students in Polk County. Lots of things shape your life and TROY was a big part of making us who we are," Barry said. "We want to give that chance to someone else."



Barry and Sherri Scarborough

“What better way than to give someone the resources to help make something of themselves—and that starts with the college degree.”

Sherri Scarborough

Col. Felicia Burks Honors Family with Scholarship

Now Chief of the Diversity and Inclusion Division, Office of the Air Force Surgeon General, Col. Felicia Burks has achieved a life and career she said would not have been possible without the support of leaders, mentors, friends, family, faith and a college degree from Troy University.

“I think about legacy building,” she said. “I stand on my family’s shoulders, and they paved the way for me to have the opportunities I have today. They paved the way for me, and now it’s my turn to break down barriers.”

That’s why she created a \$25,000 endowed scholarship entitled The Baldwin-Kent-Shepherd-Toles-Felicia L. Burks Endowment Scholarship. It’s a mouthful, but Burks wanted to represent her family with the gift.

“One of the things I know for sure is that my family is integral to my success, and all of them had some impact on my development,” she said. “This is a way to connect them all and provide an opportunity for youth and the next generation.”

A Grady, Alabama, native who grew up in the Helicon community, Burks is sensitive to opportunities and to the creation of opportunities.

“Opportunities for opened doors are often a result of bridge builders, especially for those disadvantaged as a result of socioeconomic class. I know the effects of poverty; I understand the benefits of an education, and I believe my life’s calling is connected to helping others succeed,” she said. “As a first-generation college student and alumna of Troy University, I am grateful for the education I gained from TROY, which has been a catalyst to lead me to many opportunities simply because the school I love granted me conditional admission.”

“I always knew I’d go to college, although my plan to get there was not clearly defined,” she said.

Then a neighbor, Tonya Foster Swinson, got engaged in the process, serving as a “ramp” to get Burks into college.

“Once I became a full-time student at Troy University, an Army ROTC instructor recruited me into Army ROTC and the rest is part of my history,” she said. “I’m extremely grateful for divine intervention which has led me on an amazing journey. TROY is certainly key to my success.”

That said, Burks wasn’t a typical college student. She faced some challenges others did not along her way to earning her degrees, a bachelor’s of science in vocational rehabilitation with a military science minor (1999) and a master’s degree in management with an emphasis in health care administration (2002). Her mother had health issues, and she cared for a younger brother. Burks stepped in to help take care of the underprivileged family as much as she could. All the while, she tried to figure out “what ‘right’ looked like” for a college student.

“I thank God I was able to persevere and make it through. I learned to maximize my schedule, learned how to work and study, and how to use the resources that were available to me,” she said. “That first year was not easy, but by my advanced classes, I had a rhythm and a good support network.”

She was able to learn to navigate through a college career despite adversities and got involved on campus.

She joined Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., engaged in intramural sports and joined Army ROTC. She also got connected with a Veterans Administration work-study job working with University Records. It was there she met Jeanell Sikes.

“Although I wasn’t in Ms. Jeanell’s academic classroom, I learned a lot from her. She modeled excellence and shared so much love with us all,” she said.

Under Sikes’ supervision, Burks was surrounded by other college students who were in the Reserves or the National Guard.

“Connecting with them empowered me with the belief that I could accomplish my goals. Even though I had to take remedial math, I

still graduated within four years, learned college life and how to navigate it and honed my study skills so that I could focus on accomplishing my goals,” she said.

Besides Sykes’ influence, Burks pointed to several others instrumental to her academic success.

“My math teacher was an adjunct professor but taught math better than anyone I had ever known, and my ROTC instructors really invested time in our growth and development,” she said. “They really connected with us and ensured we would be successful.”

She had enlisted in the Army Reserves, influenced by an uncle who was in the Army Reserves, although he didn’t know he influenced her decision at the time.

“When I told him, he said ‘I wish you would have talked to me first,’” she said with a chuckle. “He advised me on the opportunities within the Air Force.”

“He modeled excellence, and I wanted to make a difference, too,” she added.

Since then, she’s been a military officer for a total of 21 years, commissioning in the Army after graduating from TROY. She served six years in the Army and then commissioned in the Air Force, where she’s been a Medical Service Corps Officer and Healthcare Administrator for 15 years. She’s served in multiple positions of leadership, including command. In August 2020, she became the inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Chief, executing the Air Force Surgeon General’s vision to cultivate a culture of diversity and inclusion.

Burks admits the newest assignment is unique, requiring building a structure and laying in

resources to execute the vision. Then again, facing unique challenges is firmly in her wheelhouse and is part of the reason she dedicated herself to building an endowed scholarship for TROY students.

She’s managed to overcome obstacles of family and socio-economic conditions, finding her way through college and even breast cancer while stationed in Alaska, far from her family’s support.

“When faced with anything, we can either take fight or take flight,” she said. That concept comes through loud and clear in her message to future TROY students who will receive financial support through her gift.

“Dream big and believe in yourself,” she wants students to know. “You have everything you need in you and resources around you to help you succeed. Focus on strong study habits. Capitalize on the experience. Seek out mentors. Ask a lot of questions. Remain present in the NOW. Learn from every encounter. The college journey leads to a rewarding professional career,” she said.



Col. Felicia Burks

“Learn from every encounter. The college journey leads to a rewarding professional career.”

Col. Felicia Burks

Panama City Beach Optimist Club Creates New Endowed Scholarship for TROY

Keeping with their creed to be “just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own,” the Panama City Beach Optimist Club recently partnered with TROY to create a \$25,000 Leadership Endowed Scholarship.

In a typical year, organization member Bob Draper said the group would host local events for the youth in the community, but with the arrival of the pandemic, they wanted to find other beneficial uses for these funds. Thus, they sought to create the Panama City Beach Optimist Club Leadership Endowed Scholarship. Having partnered with TROY in the past to create scholarship opportunities, Draper says the club was more than happy to come together again with the University to support future Trojans.

“We’ve partnered with TROY on a previous \$25,000 endowed scholarship before for the Panama City Beach Campus, and with the money we had in our budget that didn’t get to go toward community youth activities, we felt it was a good investment to do another scholarship with the University,” said Draper.

This endowed scholarship will be used to benefit students from Bay County, Florida, who are attending any Troy University Campus.

“Opening up the scholarship to a wider range allows more students to partake of its benefits, and they can really be anywhere in the world,” said Draper. “We feel like this will help our community even more than the original scholarship has helped by allowing the students to attend more than just the Panama City Beach campus.”

Draper said the organization has sponsored Boy Scout troops in the past, and many Eagle Scouts have come out of the program to then pursue a military career. With the number of diverse campuses TROY offers today, Draper says those students will still be eligible for this scholarship while they serve in the military.

Having been part of the Panama City Beach Optimist Club for more than 20 years, Draper said being able to see the impact these scholarships make in the lives of the students is incredibly rewarding.

“We offer our scholarships to individuals that want to make our community better,” said Draper. “Our hope is that this scholarship will better the lives of students and the lives of their families. We’ve had some pretty successful individuals come out of our scholarship program. Our main aim is to be a friend of the youth and to inspire the youth like our creed says.”

Draper noted that one requirement for the scholarship is that the recipient keeps in touch with the organization periodically. This, he said, allows the group to see how the student is progressing, what their hopes and goals are and how the club can ultimately help them achieve these goals.

Ever the optimist, Draper said the organization hopes the individuals receiving the scholarship will get their education and ultimately become more well-rounded people.

“Troy University is very appreciative to the Panama City Beach Optimist Club for their benevolence and generosity to our students. These scholarships are wonderful resources for our students in the Panama City Beach area,” said Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development for Troy University. “The members of the Panama City Beach Optimist Club are some of the finest individuals I have met and want to see their community thrive in a positive

manner. We are proud to partner with the club, its members and the organization.”



L to R: Randy Phillips, Craig St. Martin, Robert Draper, Becky Watson, AVC for Development, and Matthew Wright, Enrollment Coordinator, for PCB Campus

“Our hope is that this scholarship better the lives of students and the lives of their families.”

Bob Draper



Drive with Style and Purpose

A TROY Tag shows your Trojan Spirit and creates scholarships for students

TROY Trojans don’t just drive in style. They drive with purpose. For nearly 30 years, TROY fans like you have supported students by purchasing TROY license plates at their local DMVs. By adding approximately \$50 worth of cardinal and TROY Spirit to the cost of your regular car or motorcycle tag, you’re giving \$48.75 of that amount to fund scholarships to help students reach their educational dreams. Fans can also support their Trojans by showing team spirit on the water with a TROY distinctive vessel identification sticker for their boats!

To learn more, visit troy.edu/tags or call the TROY Foundation at 334-670-3608.

TROY's Xi Beta Chapter Creates Opportunity for Members and Alumni

In 1978, the Xi Beta chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity was established at Troy University. Since its establishment, the brothers and alumni members of the fraternity have worked to encourage more students to pursue an education at TROY and become involved in Greek life.

With this idea in mind, alumni chapter members Kelvin Wallace and Darryl Green said the original founders partnered with TROY to create a \$25,000 Xi Beta Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship.

The original founding members of TROY's Xi Beta chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity from Spring 1978 were: Gregory Goosby, Thomas Gosha, Robert Ballard, Thomas Wilson, Freddie Briggs, Edwin Little, Mitchell Lynch, Sylvester Smith, James Epting, Solomon Green, Dwayne Perry, Eric Brooks, Anthony Hart, Robert Lawrence, Jr., Lamar Higgins, Michael Gibbs and Richard Adair.

"Our focus and the focus of the scholarship is to ensure that we're being the most impactful for the students," said Wallace. "We want to push students to TROY, and we wanted to be able to make a lasting impact by offering this scholarship through the University."

By partnering with TROY, Wallace said the fraternity is better able to serve students. The scholarship is open to not only current Xi Beta members but also to the children and grandchildren of alumni.

"We are so excited for this opportunity to give back," said Green, a 1986 graduate of TROY's nursing school. "We've been working toward this for the last 10 years. As an organization, we always want to provide a pathway for individuals to go to school and to give back to TROY."

"These Trojans have experienced firsthand both the value of Greek life in the total TROY experience and the important difference a scholarship can make for a student," said Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. "We are grateful to them for creating this 'win-win' opportunity."

During his time at TROY, Wallace was an active member of the Xi Beta chapter. Through his involvement, Wallace said he gained a true home away from home.

"When I look back on my time being in the fraternity, it really made TROY feel different; it made it feel like home," said Wallace. "I had a family in that fraternity, within that organization, and that was huge to me."

Since graduating, Wallace said he and his brothers have always made a point to stay in touch with each other. This aspect of brotherhood within the fraternity was one Wallace said he was proud to showcase to his son, Keagan.

Having known firsthand the importance his Greek family played in his life while in school, Wallace said he was ecstatic to learn that his son was also interested in becoming a member of Xi Beta.

Now a junior at TROY pursuing a degree in journalism, Wallace's son is a proud member of the fraternity and is excited to build lasting relationships with his brothers.

"It means everything to me to be able to share that connection with my son," said Wallace. "It's probably the best feeling in the world. And the best part of that to me is that Keagan wanted to pursue Greek life. He saw the good in the chapter and what it was about, and he sought after it himself."

As part of the scholarship requirements, applicants must submit a 500–1,000-word essay. The essay topic is chosen based on the national organization's annual theme, and Wallace said these themes are related to current events.

Wallace said they tie in current events to challenge students to think critically about what's going on in the nation, as well as how they can actively be part of the solution instead of passively participating.

Wallace encourages applicants to stay focused on their studies and to keep education a top priority.

"One of the main phrases one of our chapter founders would say is, 'You've got to keep the main thing the main thing,' and that's the big goal for students," said Wallace. "Focus on what's really important and focus on why you're really at college. You're there to get your degree, graduate, and put yourself in a better position to be a productive citizen of society."

Wallace says his degree from TROY in social science and psychology showed him how to communicate with people from all walks of life.

"That's one of the biggest benefits I took from my degree," he said. "I work for Coca-Cola in Birmingham, and I have over 90 employees. I make an effort to learn every employee's name, and I show them respect by getting to know about their lives when I talk to them. Having this degree made me well-rounded enough to accomplish this."

Wallace and Green urge more alumni to get involved with TROY to show the public that they are invested in and have a voice at the University.

"If alumni participate and give back, it challenges the leadership to make it better for the next person and improve it, and we also have to demonstrate that we believe in what the University will accomplish," said Green. "We can't

be part of the problem; we have to be part of the solution. To be part of the solution, you have to have a voice, and to have a voice, you have to participate. You can't just stand on the sidelines."

They challenge more people to join TROY's Alumni Association and to get involved on campus by serving on a University board, creating a scholarship or even just attending events.

"I don't think I would be who I am today without having attended TROY," said Green. "Having alumni that continue to stay involved speaks volumes for what TROY is and what it continues to do to stay relevant today."

"Fraternity life is an integral part of campus life. One grows stronger in brotherhood with others, and these bonds last for a lifetime. We find this to be true with our fraternities and sororities at Troy University and are especially grateful to the founders of the Alpha Phi Alpha chapter of 1978 for establishing this scholarship. We are proud of these successful alumni and founders, like Kelvin Wallace, Darryl Green, Lamar Higgins, and the several others listed, who give back to TROY and still make a difference as fraternity members on campus. We thank them for their love of TROY and for the tradition of Alpha Phi Alpha that will continue to thrive on campus even more so as a result of this generous gift," said Dr. John Schmidt, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Administration.



TROY's Xi Beta chapter founding members

"These Trojans have experienced firsthand both the value of Greek life in the total TROY experience and the important difference a scholarship can make for a student."

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr.

A Tribute to a Trojan of Faith: Roy Eugene “Gene” Johnson

The late Roy Eugene “Gene” Johnson never attended Troy University, but he believed strongly in TROY’s mission because of the alumni closest to him in life.

His sister, Barbara Everett, and his son, Kenneth Duane Johnson, both attended TROY. These connections made Johnson “a Trojan-at-heart” and drove him to support the University in many ways.

One of the most significant ways Johnson supported the University was by creating a scholarship in memory of his son, Kenneth, who passed away far too early in 2017 at the age of 59. Gene sought to honor one of his son’s greatest loves in his life — his fraternity at his alma mater. Kenneth was a 1982 graduate of TROY with a bachelor’s degree in social science. Johnson was active in Sigma Chi throughout his college years, and his involvement in the organization only deepened after graduating.

“Sigma Chi was a very big part of Kenneth’s college days and long after college,” said Gene Johnson. “He made lifelong friends through the fraternity —great friends — and so did I. They were a good bunch of young men, and it means a lot to me to honor Kenneth in this way.”

Johnson established a \$125,000 legacy gift to TROY and Sigma Chi to create an endowment that will be used to help new pledges in need of financial assistance pay the cost of joining Sigma Chi.

Dendy Moseley, Advisor for TROY’s Sigma Chi chapter, said the generous gift will ensure that cost will not serve as a barrier for a potential member who possesses the values and characteristics Sigma Chi stands for — values that Johnson embodied.

“I think Mr. Johnson saw that his son gained true, lifelong friends through his involvement in Sigma Chi, during his college years and up until his passing,” said Moseley. “Obviously, that speaks to the bonds created through this organization.”

Moseley described Kenneth Johnson as an engaged alumnus who was active in fundraising and served as a mentor to the young Sigma Chi members.

“Ken was someone whose presence and support around the chapter was always appreciated,” Moseley said. “Many alumni never come back and see the chapter house, but Ken actually felt the calling to come back and engage with the undergraduate men.”

One Sigma Chi member who benefited from Ken’s mentorship was Connor Couch, a 2017 graduate now working at Troy University as a recruiter. Couch said he and his twin brother were both close to Ken, someone who was happy to give advice on school or careers.

“He spent a lot of time talking to the pledges and new members, and he was someone that a lot of people went to with questions or when they needed help,” Couch said. “He was a special guy.”

Couch said Ken set the benchmark for having a lifelong commitment to the fraternity, and he won the chapter’s Alumnus of the Year Award in 2014. In 2017, the award was renamed the “Ken Johnson Alumnus of the Year Award.” Couch said Johnson’s gift will open the door for young men to join Sigma Chi who may not otherwise have been able.

“Mr. Gene saw how much Sigma Chi impacted Ken’s life, and I think he wanted to see other young men impacted in the same way,” Couch said.

“Mr. Johnson was always a delight to work with and visit. He was one of the most charming, expressive and caring individuals that I have had the pleasure to know. He always made it a point to ‘thank me’ for any communication or outreach that was made to him, even though he was donating to TROY. He was the model for a Southern gentleman. I will miss working with him, but the legacy gift he left for the Sigma Chi fraternity at TROY will impact students for generations to come. We are very appreciative of this gift and the many others that he gave to our University,” said Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development.

The elder Johnson passed away on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at the age of 87. His sister, Barbara, and her husband, Congressman Terry Everett, best friend and companion, Agnes Karvonen, and other family and friends will miss him dearly, along with the rest of the Trojan family. Gene served his country in the U.S. Air Force for 22 years, retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant and served under five commanders-in-chief. He also served in the Vietnam War and spent 14 years of his military career in charge of the Presidential Squadron of Aircraft in Washington, D.C. Many of the members of Sigma Chi who served

with his son served as his pallbearers as a testament to their love for Ken and Gene.



The late Roy Eugene “Gene” Johnson

“I think Mr. Johnson saw that his son gained true, lifelong friends through his involvement in Sigma Chi, through his college years and up until his passing.”

Dendy Moseley, Advisor for
TROY’s Sigma Chi Chapter

Legacy Giving and the Troy Shield Society

The TROY Shield Society has been established to recognize and encourage legacy gifts to Troy University. Through legacy giving, donors ensure that their gift will create a lasting impact for future generations through bequests, charitable trusts, gifts of measurable securities, life insurance and/or tax deferred retirement plans and annuities. To find out more about Legacy Giving and becoming a member of the TROY Shield Society, contact Becky Watson or Caroline Hale at 334-670-3608.

Alumni Board Endows Legacy Scholarship while Chapters Continue to Make Gains

The Troy University National Alumni Association has endowed the largest scholarship in its history.

The Alumni Board received donations from board members that exceeded its \$50,000 goal for the Alumni Legacy Scholarship, completing the initial drive three years prior to its deadline.

“The Alumni Board and the various local chapters consistently raise funds to endow new scholarships to aid our students,” said Bill Hopper, immediate past-President of the Board. “Perhaps one of the most important functions of the association is fundraising to provide scholarships which promote enrollment, growth and retention of Troy University students.”

The endowment will provide scholarships to students who are qualified legacies of Troy University graduates who maintain at least a 2.7 GPA. “Legacies” are the children of alumni.

“Through the dedication and loyalty of the Board, the chapters and the great number of alumni, scholarships will continue to grow and thrive,” said Roni Holley, Troy University Alumni President. “The goal to serve our students and their needs of getting a much-deserved education remains in force. I am very proud of the way the Board, alumni and chapters stepped up to the challenges, in spite of the world being a very different place.”

While Board members each set personal fundraising goals, they also included methods for any alumni member to give, including adding a voluntary contribution of \$2 to annual individual dues renewals earmarked for the scholarship.

The Alumni Board wasn’t the only group to endow scholarships in 2020, however. The Archer Alumni Chapter endowed a \$25,000 scholarship, bringing the total number of chapter-endowed scholarships to six. Chapters that have previously completed endowments are the Alumni Band Chapter, the Clipson

Chapter, Conecuh County Chapter, Elba Chapter and the Emerald Coast Chapter.

Chapters currently working on endowed scholarships haven’t been deterred by the oddities that 2020 brought their way.

Murder Creek Chapter, for example, teamed with a local restaurant to provide a discounted drive-through meal in exchange for contributions to their scholarship drive. Those contributions were over and above dues renewal.

Other chapters even managed to host golf tournaments amid the COVID crisis.

The Birmingham Chapter’s Al Lucas Scholarship, the T-Club’s Eric Mizell Scholarship, the Trojan Tailgaters, the Monroe County Chapter, the Pensacola Chapter, the Wiregrass Chapter, the Pike County Chapter, Autauga County Chapter, Murder Creek Chapter, and the Elmore County Chapter all have endowed scholarship drives underway.

“The Alumni Association has always put an emphasis on scholarships, but this year there was an even stronger conviction

than ever to establish and endow scholarships while adding to existing ones. We thought it was important, especially during a pandemic, to assist our students in reaching their goals,” said Alumni Director Faith Byrd. “Also, these scholarships can only enhance the University’s goal of recruiting good students to TROY.”

For more information on these and other alumni scholarships or to contribute, please call the Office of Alumni Affairs at (334) 670-3318.



The Alumni Board recently completed its endowment drive for the Legacy Scholarship ahead of schedule.

“Through the dedication and loyalty of the Board, the chapters and the great number of alumni, scholarships will continue to grow and thrive.”

Roni Holley, Troy University
Alumni President

Donations to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund can be made online at www.troy.edu/givenow by designating the Student Support/Emergency Fund with the notation “COVID-19.” Also, donations can be made by check to the Troy University Foundation for the COVID-19 Fund and mailed to:

Troy University Annual Fund
301 Adams Administration, Troy, AL 36082.

Alumnus Hutto Remembered for His Legacy of Support for Troy University

“In the game of life as in any game of ball, play it clean, play it fair or not at all.”

That was the famous catchphrase that former broadcaster Earl Hutto used in signing off of his sports broadcasts throughout his career in radio and television. But, for the former eight-term U.S. Congressman, it was more than a catchphrase — it was a way of life.

Congressman Hutto, a TROY alumnus, passed away at the age of 94 on Monday, Dec. 14, surrounded by family at home in Pensacola, Florida.

The Midland City native served in the Navy before becoming the first member of his family to earn a college degree from then-Troy State Teachers College in 1949. Following his graduation, he went on to teach business courses at Cottonwood High School while also serving as a part-time radio announcer.

A talented broadcaster, Hutto’s career got its start during his college years in the TROY press box and the studios of Troy radio station WTBF. Hutto went on to become sports director for WEAR-TV in Pensacola, Florida, before moving to WSFA in Montgomery, where he worked from 1961 to 1963. He then moved to WJHG in Panama City, Florida, from 1973 to 1979. Hutto also owned Pensacola’s first FM radio station, WPEX.

In 1972, Hutto’s career took a turn when he won a seat in the Florida House of Representatives. In 1979, he was elected to his first of eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing northwest Florida. In Congress, Hutto earned seats on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Armed Services Committee and later chaired the Coast Guard and Navigations Subcommittee, as well as the Panel on Special Operations Forces. In 1989, he became Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, overseeing a \$90 billion annual budget.

In 1980, Troy University honored the Congressman with its Alumni of the Year Award, and, later in 2005, he received the University’s highest alumni honor, the Distinguished Leadership Award. Hutto was also a lifetime member of the Troy University Alumni Association.

“Troy University was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Congressman Earl Hutto. He was a part of what Tom Brokaw famously termed ‘The Greatest Generation’ — a generation that not only saved this great nation but also built it into what has been characterized as the greatest nation in the history of the world,” said

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. “He was a dedicated public servant and a model TROY alumnus, whose legacy of support will continue to impact TROY students for years to come. Congressman Hutto will be greatly missed, and his family continues to be in our thoughts and prayers.”

In 2018, Hutto and his wife, Nancy, donated \$100,000 to TROY, paving the way for the renovation of TROY TrojanVision studio,

located in Wallace Hall on the Troy Campus. The new Earl Hutto Studio was unveiled during a ceremony in November 2018, with University officials and the Hutto family participating.

“Congressman Hutto’s service to and generous support of Troy University went to the very heart of our mission of serving students,” said Major General Walter Givhan, Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Economic Development. “His family’s generous gift helped provide a state-of-the-art studio where our broadcast journalism students gain valuable hands-on, practical experience as a part of their TROY degree. He was a true Trojan, through and through.”

Kyle Bozeman, TROY’s TV Manager, said the Hutto family’s generosity made possible the technological upgrades that help prepare TROY students for successful careers in the field of broadcasting.

“When I met Earl and Nancy Hutto, I was really touched by their sincerity and their thoughtfulness of future TROY students who will benefit from their donation,” Bozeman said. “We’re very proud of our technologically advanced

facilities, but we’re even more proud to be able to offer these facilities to our students without depending on tuition dollars or state allocations to pay for them. It’s the generous financial support of people like the Hutto family that makes that possible.”

“The Congressman and Mrs. Hutto gave willingly to Troy University,” said Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development. “The Congressman was a wonderful storyteller and loved Troy University. He was proud to be an alumnus of TROY, and he had already endowed a scholarship in honor of his mother. This particular gift was about remembering his legacy. The entire family was on hand the day of the ribbon-cutting, and it was a wonderful day of celebration for the family and Troy University — a day to honor a true legend, Congressman Earl Hutto. He will be missed by all who knew him.”



Nancy and Earl Hutto are shown here in TrojanVision’s Earl Hutto Studio on the TROY Campus.

“He was a dedicated public servant and a model TROY alumnus, whose legacy of support will continue to impact TROY students for years to come.”

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr.

Marty and Jackie Gilley Make Generous Contribution to Athletics Leadership Society

As longtime supporters of TROY Athletics, Marty and Jackie Gilley generously gifted \$25,000 to Troy University for the TROY Athletics Leadership Society, hoping that the funds could one day help a student-athlete in need.

As a former TROY football player and athletic scholarship recipient himself, Marty knows how instrumental donations like these can be to student athletes making their way through school. A donation to the TROY Athletics Leadership Society will provide impactful resources for the benefit of TROY Athletics.

“We are very appreciative of this gift from Jackie and Marty Gilley,” said Brent Jones, Senior Vice Chancellor for Athletics. “Jackie and Marty have always been great supporters of Trojan Athletics, and this gift is just another show of their support and passion for our athletic program. Marty was a great student athlete himself. We are grateful for the support that he and Jackie continue to give to our programs.”

From 1983 to 1987, Marty had the opportunity to play football for the Trojans and participate in the 1984 NCAA Division II Football National Championship.

“Being a part of the ’84 team was truly a great experience,” he said. “For me, it was the first time getting into the playoffs, going to a championship and winning it.”

Marty’s tuition was covered by a scholarship, as was that of his daughter, Ginny Ann Penton. Marty says he can’t think of a better use for the money they ultimately saved than to give back so that other students can have similar scholarship opportunities.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in business marketing, Marty was able to transition seamlessly into working professionally in his family business, Gilley’s Heating and Cooling.

“I’d worked for the business my whole life, but after getting my degree, I was able to better understand the advertising and

promotional aspects of the company,” he says. “My degree gave me the opportunity and the ideas to make some changes and updates in how we were operating.”

The Gilleys agree that giving back to TROY is their way of lending

a hand in helping the University grow. It also provides them the pathway to reach out and support students that otherwise might not have the opportunity to go to college.

“There are a lot of students that have the intelligence and the talent to go on to college, but they don’t have the resources,” he said.

Whenever possible, Marty encourages fellow alumni to support their alma mater, and he hopes through this giving that they can continue to see TROY grow.

“That’s the biggest reason I give back to TROY. They gave to me, and I want to always give back to them,” he said. “I hope that TROY can keep its focus on supporting the students who truly want to give their all to TROY.”

“It was a true pleasure working with Jackie and Marty Gilley on their Athletic Leadership Society gift,” said Gary Wilbert, Associate Athletic Director of Development. “Jackie and Marty love TROY Athletics and want to see the programs prosper, and that is what the Athletic Leadership Society is all about, so it was a great match for their interest. I applaud their generosity and commitment to the University and Trojan Athletics.”

From one Trojan athlete to another, Marty urges all student athletes to take advantage of the opportunities they are given at TROY. He notes that every situation is an opportunity to learn and get better, and you can’t just sit around waiting for instant gratification.

“If you get the opportunity, take advantage of it. Nothing is handed to you on a silver platter; you have to work for it. The more you work for it, the more you’ll appreciate it,” he said.



Marty and Jackie Gilley

“Marty was a great student athlete himself. We are grateful for the support that he and Jackie continue to give to our programs.”

Brent Jones, Senior Vice Chancellor for Athletics

Your Gift for a Greater Tomorrow

We want to thank our many donors who have given so generously during these unprecedented times. Your gifts have meant so much to our students, faculty and staff. We are forever grateful for you and your benevolence. Your choice to give back to TROY means even more right now. As we start a new year, we reserve a profound, enduring gratitude for those whose support means that we are able to educate one more mind to think, one more heart to feel, and one more body to act — thank you for championing the Trojan motto to future generations.

If you would like to make an annual gift for 2021 to TROY, please visit troy.edu/give or call Meredith Welch in the Office of Development at 334-670-3608.

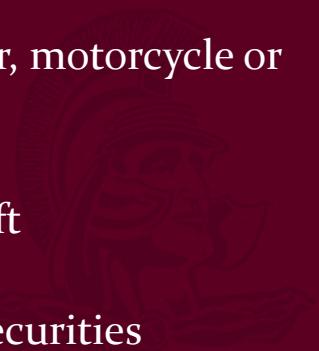


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- Making a planned or legacy gift
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For more information regarding opportunities to support Troy University, please contact:



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