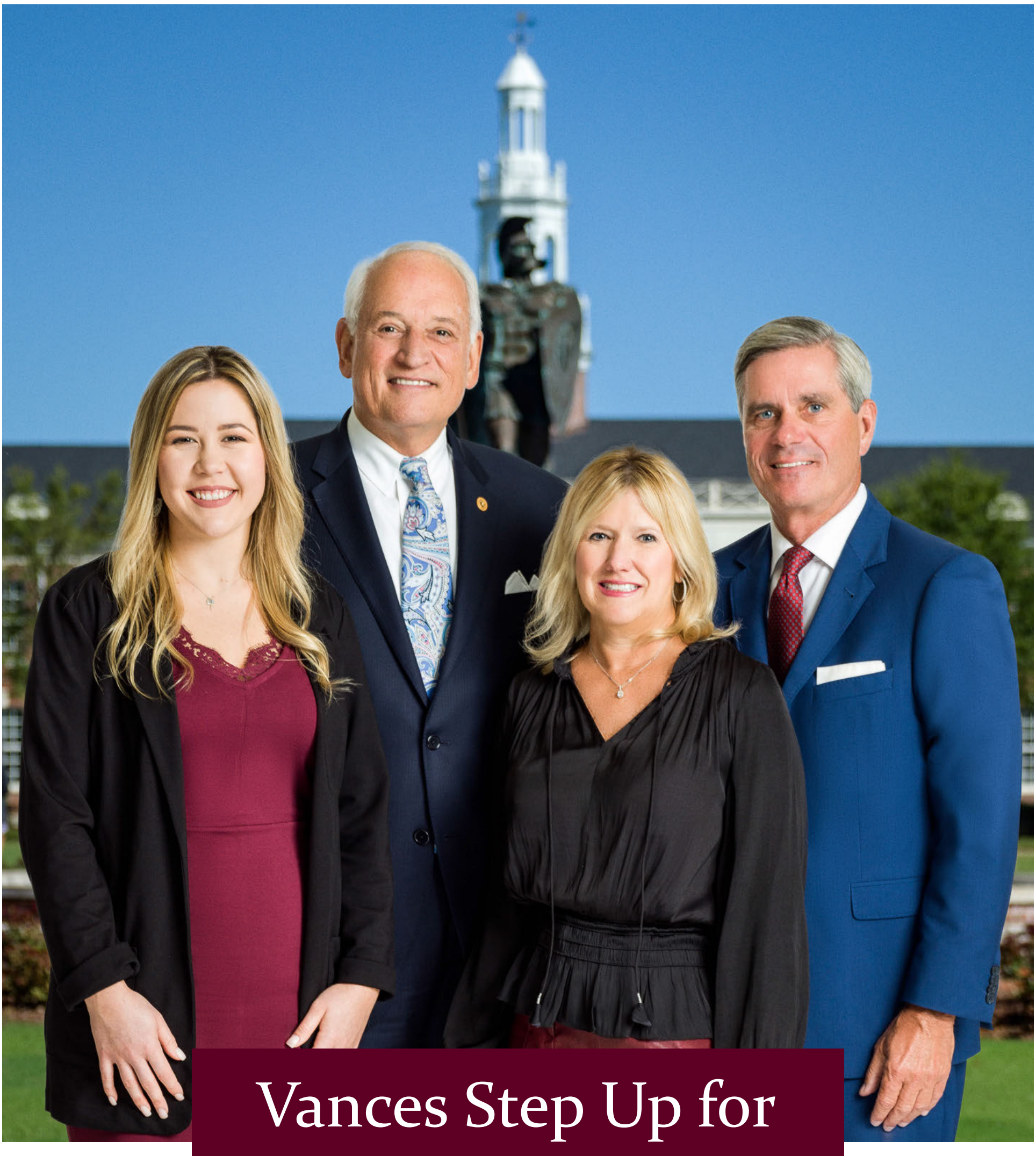
ADVANCING TROY

A NEWSLETTER FOR TROY UNIVERSITY DONORS & SUPPORTERS VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3 FALL 2020



Vances Step Up for Students in Need

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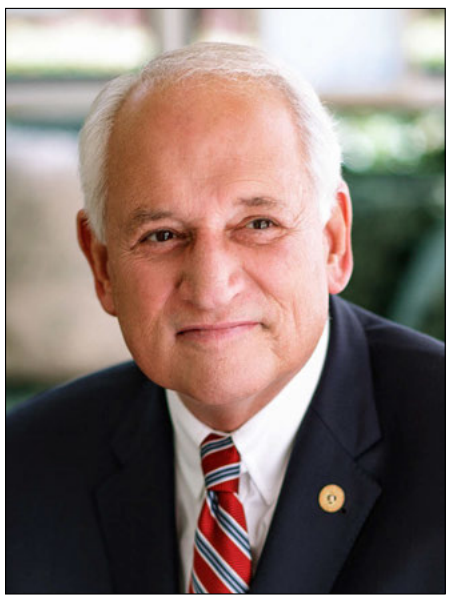
A Message From Chancellor Hawkins



Service to students is a bedrock principle at Troy University, and that service takes many forms. This edition of Advancing TROY reports on the gift of Kate and Gibson Vance to endow a special emergency fund to aid students in financial need.

Often it takes only small investments to ensure students facing financial challenges have the means to continue their studies. But small investments can pay big dividends. To that point, a recent study from Georgetown University found, on average, college graduates earn $1 million more over their lifetime than non-graduates.

Earning a degree makes dollars and sense. Your financial support will make a huge difference in the lives of our students. I encourage you to follow the lead of the Vances and the other generous donors profiled in this issue and make giving to TROY a priority in your financial plan.

In closing, thanks to Trojans everywhere for making our Annual Giving Day on October 8 a huge success. We raised $203,845, well above our $150,000 goal. We appreciate your investment in TROY!

Warmest Regards,

Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D.
Chancellor

Trojans Stand Up Tall to Help University Surpass Goal on Annual TROY Giving Day

Troy University's third annual TROY Giving Day proved to be a tremendous success, with 330 gifts bringing in $203,845 in the 24-hour period on Oct. 8.

Giving Day contributions originated from 24 states and Germany, and donors were able to designate how their gifts would benefit TROY, such as to help with facilities, academics, scholarships, the University's Fall COVID-19 Emergency Fund, the TROY Annual Fund and Athletics, among others. Under the theme "Stand Up and Be a Trojan," donors helped the University easily surpass its goal of $150,000. Matching funds were supplied by generous donors Jane Beasley ($10,000) and Bob Butterworth ($5,000) to help inspire donors to give. The University matched gifts of $100 or more with a gift of $100 while the matching funds were available.

"Once again, the Trojan Family stood up and answered the call on TROY Giving Day," said Major General Walter Givhan, Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Economic Development. "Through their generosity, we were able to surpass our Giving Day goal for the third straight year. Each gift helps to make a difference in the lives of our students and our University, and we are grateful to all who made this year's Giving Day a tremendous success."

Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development, said the success of this year's TROY Giving Day initiative was particularly tremendous given the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bob Butterworth

Jane Beasley

"Each gift helps to make a difference in the lives of our students and our University, and we are grateful to all who made this year's Giving Day a tremendous success."

– Major General Walter Givhan,
Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement
and Economic Development

"Giving Day is all about everyone coming together for one day to make a big impact, and the success of this year's event is a great testament to the dedication and commitment of TROY's alumni and donors," Watson said. "To raise more than $200,000 amid the uncertain times presented by the pandemic is phenomenal. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity shown by all who joined us this year in standing up and being a Trojan."

Giving Day Stats

- 24 hours
- 330 gifts
- Donors from 24 states and Germany
- $150,000 goal
- $203,845 raised
- $15,000 in matching funds courtesy of Jane Beasley and Bob Butterworth

STAND UP & BE A TROJAN

ADVANCING TROY is produced by the Office of Development at Troy University / 301 Adams Administration Building / Troy, AL 36082
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Cover Photo: SGA President Nicole Jayjohn, Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., Kate Vance and Trustee Gibson Vance

Generous Gift Will Endow Vance Student Emergency Fund

In a tumultuous time of unprecedented financial hardship for many, a new fund established by a gift from Kate and Trustee Gibson Vance aims to help students in need. This selfless assistance from the Vances is an exceptional example of the Trojan giving spirit. The Vances' contributions promise to help TROY not only retain students but improve their quality of life while on campus.

The $100,000 gift will establish The Kate and Gibson Vance Student Emergency Fund that will benefit students on the Troy Campus who experience an unexpected financial burden and need assistance to remain enrolled in classes.

"There are students at TROY whose finances are limited, and when an emergency occurs, they don't have the resources to handle it," said Trustee Gibson Vance, a 1987 TROY alumnus who serves as President Pro Tempore of the University's Board of Trustees. "I went to school on a Pell Grant, student loans and work-study. If something went wrong, I didn't have the extra money to pay for it. This fund will help students be able to weather those difficult situations."

Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development, said the couple's generosity would be of tremendous benefit to TROY students, as well as the University as a whole.

"We know that once a student drops out, the odds of them coming back to continue their education decrease dramatically," Watson said. "This fund will provide students the opportunity to continue to pursue their degree without interruption so they are able to realize their goals. We are so grateful to Kate and Gibson Vance for their generosity and their continued support and loyalty to Troy University and its students."

TROY will form a committee to establish criteria and review student applications. The funds will be administered by the Troy University Foundation. Students will go through an application process through which they will have to demonstrate a specific financial need in order to qualify for the grant.

"You never know when you may experience emergencies and unexpected expenses, whether that be your car breaking down, a serious illness or having a family crisis that changes your financial situation," Kate Vance said. "Gibson lived with his grandmother when he was at TROY and didn't have a lot of extra money to spend on things. We want these students to be able to continue their education, even when unexpected emergencies arise that are beyond their control. We want to provide them with that extra support to keep the students in school and focused on their studies."

Kate and Trustee Gibson Vance

"Serving my alma mater and giving back in a tangible way to help the students means everything to me."

– Gibson Vance, President Pro Tempore, TROY Board of Trustees

L-R: Andrew Waugh (son of Kate and Trustee Gibson Vance) Trent Bowen, Jonathan Pearson and John Peterson

Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., said the most important thing Troy University does is serve its students, and the establishment of the Kate and Gibson Vance Student Emergency Fund will play an important role in the University's student-centered mission.

"At Troy University, we are deeply committed to serving students, and Kate and Gibson Vance's generous gift is the very embodiment of the culture of caring that exists here," Dr. Hawkins said. "I am grateful for the leadership and support they provide to TROY and their continued commitment to our students."

Another motivating factor in the establishment of the fund came from the couple's son, Andrew, a current TROY student. "Andrew is earnestly engaged in the campus community," Mrs. Vance said. "He has friends that are working to put themselves through school that wouldn't have the extra money to handle an emergency should one occur. He has shared with us that there are real needs among students here, and the most meaningful help we can offer is this fund's material assistance."

Trustee Vance, an attorney with the Beasley Allen Law Firm and Vice President of the Alabama State Bar Association, said he feels fortunate to be able to help TROY students in this way.

"Serving my alma mater and giving back in a tangible way to help the students means everything to me," Trustee Vance said. "We feel fortunate and thrilled to be able to establish this fund, and we look forward to helping as many students as we can in the coming years. It is a heartwarming way to pay our good fortune forward."

Gibson Vance elected Vice President of Alabama State Bar

Troy University Board of Trustees President Pro Tempore Gibson Vance has been appointed Vice President of the Alabama State Bar Association. The 20,000-plus-member association is the official licensing and regulatory organization of lawyers in Alabama, created in 1923 by an act of the Alabama legislature.

Trustee Vance practices in the Beasley Allen Law Firm's Personal Injury and Consumer Fraud sections and is a 1987 graduate of TROY and is also a graduate of the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law at Faulkner University. He is past President of the American Assoc. of Justice and is a Fellow of the American Law Foundation. He is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He joined the Troy University Board of Trustees in 2012 and was elected to the President Pro Tempore seat in 2019.

Remembering a True Trojan: Dr. Jean Laliberte

All it took was a conversation about Troy University with the late Dr. Jean Laliberte to know how incredibly proud she was to be a Trojan. One could see it in her smile and in her eyes. One could hear her enthusiasm in her voice when she spoke of her beloved University.

Dr. Laliberte, who served as the University's Associate Vice Chancellor for Development from 2000 until her retirement in 2017, passed away unexpectedly on June 27, 2020, at the age of 69, but her love for TROY and its students will live on through a $50,000 legacy gift that Dr. Laliberte had pledged through the Legacy Giving Council.

This legacy gift will support the Laliberte Family Endowed Scholarship, which she and her husband, David, started shortly before her retirement in 2017. The scholarship began as a way for the Lalibertes to honor their family, including daughter, Jennifer, her husband, Nick Gruber, and their two sons, John Harrison and Hawkins, all of whom are avid Trojan fans. This scholarship will help TROY students who are either a mathematics or marketing major in need of peace of mind in paying for their education.

In addition to the legacy gift, alumni, friends and family contributed an additional $5,000 to the scholarship through memorial gifts.

"Dr. Jean Laliberte founded the Legacy Giving Council at Troy University, and she was a role model for others to follow," said Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development. "She was a good donor to the University and was always vocal about the many reasons it was important to 'give back' and support TROY. She was a true Trojan and loved TROY deeply. She will be greatly missed, but her legacy will live on at TROY through this scholarship and the recipients that receive it. The University is very grateful to Dr. Laliberte and her husband, David, for this wonderful gift that will serve our students in such a meaningful way and honor the memory of the family."

Dr. Laliberte joined the TROY family in 1991, serving as a Professor of marketing, a position she would hold until 2005. Prior to joining the TROY family, Dr. Laliberte served as an Associate Professor of marketing and finance at Elms College from 1987 to 1991, an Associate Professor of marketing at Western New England College from 1981 to 1987, and an Instructor of marketing at Clemson University from 1974 to 1981.

"She was a trusted colleague, and there was no one more enthusiastic about TROY than Jean," said Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. "As a faculty member within our Sorrell College of Business for many years, Jean was committed to serving, encouraging and preparing our students for future success. Later, as Associate Vice Chancellor for Development, Jean's dedication to the University was evident to all with whom she came in contact. Even in retirement, Jean remained devoted to serving the community and engaging with her Troy University family."

Under the leadership of Dr. John Schmidt, who then served as the University's Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and External Relations, Dr. Laliberte spearheaded the University's Building Beyond Boundaries capital campaign, which well surpassed its goal by raising $258.3 million. She was also responsible for founding the TROY Shield Society, which recognizes donors who make planned legacy gifts to the University.

Dr. Laliberte was also dedicated in her service to the community, including serving as the local chapter and State Treasurer of Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority; as a member of Troy Rotary; DAR; Secretary of the Troy Arts Council; Troy Arts Auxiliary; Republican Women; Mortar Board; the New Century Club; the Female Factor; the Troy Regional Medical Foundation; the Troy University Legacy Giving Council; and Park Memorial United Methodist Church's Circle of Benevolence.

"Jean took great pleasure in seeing other people happy. She had that joyful attitude about herself and, in turn, tried to impart that to others," said Dr. Schmidt, who now serves as the Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Administration. "She never met a stranger. She just had those people skills that you can't teach, and she was loved by so many. Jean brought joy to work, and she worked with joy."

Dr. Laliberte was a lifetime member of the Troy University Alumni Association and an avid supporter of Troy University Athletics. Jean was especially proud of her daughter, Jennifer, for being a two-time graduate of TROY, earning both her undergraduate degree in business in 2006 and her MBA in 2008.

"Jean Laliberte taught us the meaning of loyalty and passion in the service of this University," said Major General Walter Givhan, who serves as the University's Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Economic Development. "No one was fiercer in her dedication to TROY, whether she was raising funds, raising friends or raising a loud voice at an athletic event. I was honored to work with her and learn from her what it means to be a Trojan."

The late Dr. Jean Laliberte

> "Her love for TROY and its students will live on through a $50,000 legacy gift that Dr. Laliberte had pledged through the Legacy Giving Council."
>
> – Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development

For more information on how to establish a legacy gift to Troy University and join The TROY Shield Society, please contact Becky Watson at 334-670-3608 or Winton Smith at 901-301-9275.

Memorial Scholarship Established for Kevin Glackmeyer

Throughout the years, TROY has seen its fair share of memorable moments. Behind the lens for many of them was the late Kevin Glackmeyer.

As the University's Chief Photographer, Glackmeyer documented the lives of countless students, faculty members and proud TROY supporters. Through his work, Trojan stories were preserved and lives were changed.

"You become a part of someone else's life when you photograph it. Kevin was a part of innumerable Trojan lives," says Dr. Denise Green, Dean of Health and Human Services at TROY. "Kevin didn't just take pictures. He captured people's lives for them. Kevin's photography was elevated; it was more than just a one-dimensional picture."

After Glackmeyer's passing in December 2017, Green and Ed Noriega, Director of the DTI Center and Professor of graphic design at TROY, wanted to honor the memory of their dear friend by investing in the lives of students interested in photography.

"We have a number of alumni that have gone through the 'Kevin School of Photography and Training' and are doing remarkably well with their photo work," says Noriega. "When Kevin passed, many of his students who worked with him were not only moved by his passing but also remain grateful for the contribution he made in helping them become the photographers they are today."

In 2018, Dr. Green and Noriega created a memorial scholarship to honor Glackmeyer's legacy at TROY with the help of generous contributions from friends, alumni and faculty members.

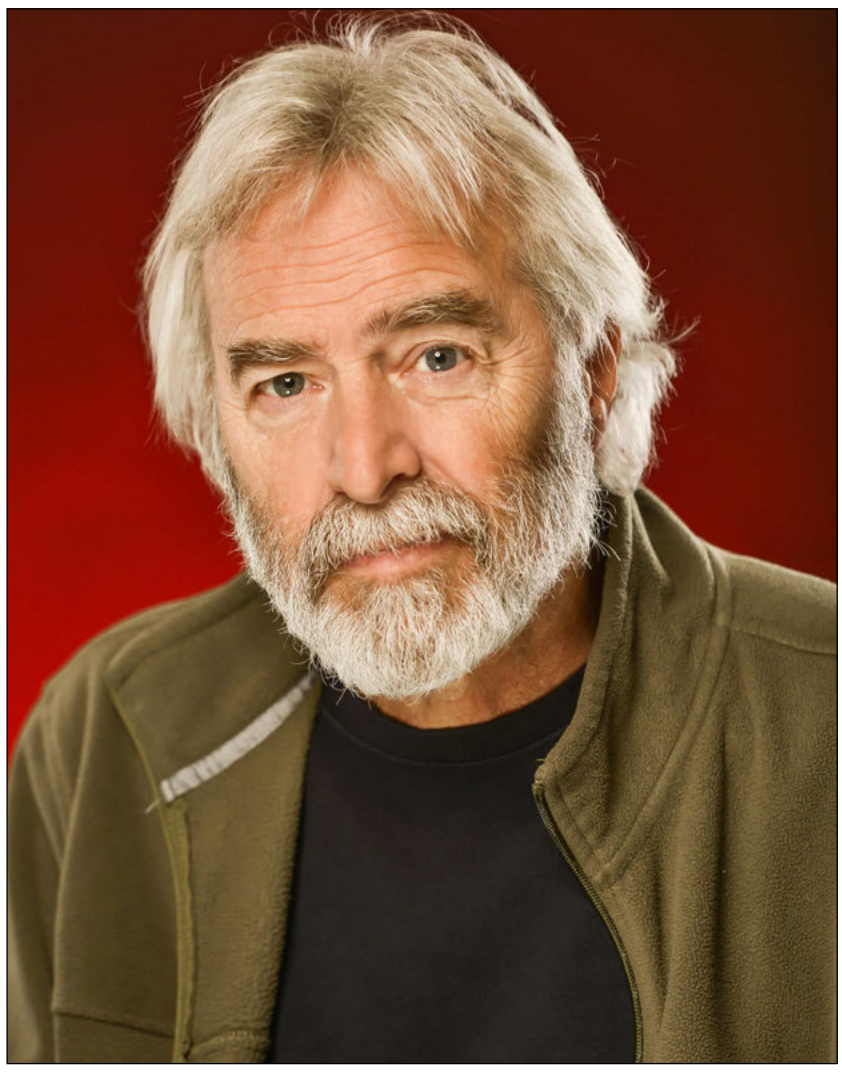
"This scholarship was a way for us to take a picture of Kevin," says Dr. Green. "It was a reciprocation of what Kevin had done for us. He gave to people unfettered. He gave of himself, his time, his wit, his charm and his wisdom as if it were an ocean."

As a longtime friend and colleague of Glackmeyer, Noriega believes the scholarship's namesake would have been sincerely humbled and grateful to know so many found him worthy of this honor.

Noriega says the ideals and practices Glackmeyer left behind at TROY should never be forgotten, as the impression he made was indelible.

"His name, contribution and the impact he made were not temporary; they are ongoing," says Noriega. "He believed in being able to help young students open their minds to photography and to look at it not academically but artistically, so they could make a living from it."

Dr. Green says it's imperative we continue to honor members of the TROY family with scholarships and recognition because it helps establish a bridge to our past.



The late Kevin Glackmeyer

"This scholarship was a way for us to take a picture of Kevin. It was a reciprocation of what Kevin had done for us."

– Dr. Denise Green, Dean of Health and Human Services

"History is the foundation of our future," says Dr. Green. "Without recording our memories of history, we can't benefit from them. Kevin recorded the life of this University. Kevin built a bridge with his photography so that people can revel in and learn from its past."

The scholarship is not strictly limited to students pursuing sports photography, though, and Noriega says they will continue to search for applicants in need of finances and recognition of their work.

During his time at TROY, Glackmeyer worked diligently to help photography students afford the proper equipment, and Noriega and Dr. Green agree this scholarship is one way to lend a hand to those aspiring artists. "The work he did and the support he gave have to live on," says Noriega.

Glackmeyer passed down his passion for photography to numerous students, and every day he made a point of showing his students that he believed in their abilities and was willing to take a chance on their work.

For those pursuing the scholarship, Noriega encourages students to be grateful for every single moment and to take nothing for granted because that was what Glackmeyer was truly about.

"When you are remarkable as a human being and are a simple kind of soul, what you do runs like a river through people's lives," says Dr. Green. "The world will be a better place when you do the next right thing. That's all Kevin would have wanted. That's why we created this scholarship — to do the next right thing."

This fund has not been fully endowed, and those wishing to contribute to it may do so by sending their gift to Troy University Foundation, Kevin Glackmeyer Scholarship Fund, 301 Adams Administration Building, Troy, AL 36082 or call Becky Watson at 334-670-3608.

Your Gift for a Greater Tomorrow

We want to thank our many donors who have so generously given this year. Your gifts have meant so much to our students, faculty and staff. If you are in a position to make a year-end gift, we are forever grateful for you and your benevolence. Your choice to give back to TROY means even more right now. As we give thanks this fall, 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 end-of-year gift to TROY, please visit troy.edu/give or call Becky Watson in the Office of Development at 334-670-3608.

Donna Brockmann Intends to Pay it Forward

As an educator of over 30 years and a proud TROY alumna, Donna Brockmann is well-acquainted with the importance of promoting education.

After her retirement from teaching in Atlanta, Brockmann moved back to Daleville and began seeking ways she could give back to the University that gave her so much. Brockmann was named the 2017-2018 Outstanding Alumnus of TROY for her dedicated service to Alumni Affairs, but she always yearned to do more. The opportunity to expand her contribution came about when she established the Donna S. Brockmann College of Education Scholarship through a generous legacy gift.

"TROY afforded me an outstanding career and a wonderful life in Atlanta for 33 years. I am very blessed and thankful for my time at TROY," she says. "I am glad to be able to give back in this way. I really hope this scholarship in the College of Education will provide the start to a bright future for a young person who needs it."

"Donna is a very loyal and dedicated alumna who truly enjoys giving back to her alma mater. You find her routinely volunteering at events and calling up to donate to honor a former teacher or classmate, so it was no surprise to me that she has decided to remember TROY through a legacy gift. She seems to always be thinking about ways she can 'make a difference' with our students, and establishing a scholarship through a legacy gift is a perfect way to do just that," said Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development.

Brockmann says her passion for servant leadership first took root as a military child growing up on the base at Fort Rucker. Her desire to give back to and teach others soon led her to Troy University, where she earned her degree in elementary education in 1979.

"I received such an outstanding education at TROY," says Brockmann. "Instructors at TROY are so successful, which, in turn, made the students successful. They were masters of their crafts, and they passed that wisdom on to their future students. They made a connection to the local school systems and beyond."

Donna Brockmann

"We need our children and youth taught by master educators... that's why I wanted to provide a scholarship."

– Donna Brockmann

Brockmann says dedicating her life to investing in her students pushed her to be the best educator she could be. To become a top-notch educator, she says, you must love what you do and never lose sight of why you do it. She adds that having a sense of humor is also mandatory for this line of work, as well as being humble enough to admit when you've made a mistake.

Along with these personal attributes, Brockmann says having dedicated leadership to look up to is required in producing the best educators possible.

"Between Dr. Ralph Adams and Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., how many colleges can claim that their leaders dedicated essentially all their adult years to being the leader of a college?" says Brockmann. "You don't even have that at your Ivy League colleges. That is a tribute to them, to the University and to what they do for and with the University. That just doesn't happen often."

Brockmann says she hopes, even in the face of the uncertainty of COVID-19, TROY is able to see continued growth and success. As they head into uncharted territory this school year, Brockmann says she has immense respect for the educators continuing to teach in the midst of the pandemic.

"We can't have a nation being taught by revolving-door teachers," says Brockmann. "We need our children and youth taught by master educators. That is what TROY produces, and that's why I wanted to provide a scholarship. We can all do our part in paying it forward."

Fall COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund Now Receiving Donations

"Trojans helping Trojans" is commonplace around Troy University, and the Fall COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund is just one more action from our alumni and donors that echoes this mantra.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit the University in the spring, the Trojan Nation responded with more than $63,000 in donations for an emergency relief fund designed to give a little extra help for TROY students in crisis. Some 250 students received a $250 emergency grant from the fund, and now that the fall semester has begun, the Office of Development is once again spearheading a fund drive for emergency support.

"We are grateful to our alumni and donors for continuing to support our students as they return to campus. Many of our students are in need of books and a way to actually fund their tuition and everyday basic needs," said Associate Vice Chancellor for Development Becky Watson.

Students access the fund through an application process through the Dean of Students' Office. Part of the application process includes providing proof of need. First-time applicants receive priority for the grants, and funds will be distributed based on funds raised. To date, approximately $40,000 has been raised for the Fall Covid-19 Student Emergency Fund, which will allow for 160 additional students to receive emergency grants.

"We know that many of our students and their families continue to face difficult times during this pandemic crisis, and we are trying our best to support their return to their studies," Watson said.

Additionally, Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. has issued an appeal asking alumni and donors to support the Fall COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund. A Scalefunder page has also been opened once again so donors can be recognized as they give.

"It's important for us to be able to offer this assistance to our students to help them continue with their studies and remain on track to graduate," Watson added.

To donate, visit troy.edu/fallcovid and designate the gift to the Student Support/Emergency Fund.

Dr. Manley Johnson Supports the Publication of *Nall at TROY: An Internationally Regarded Alabama Artist Comes Home*

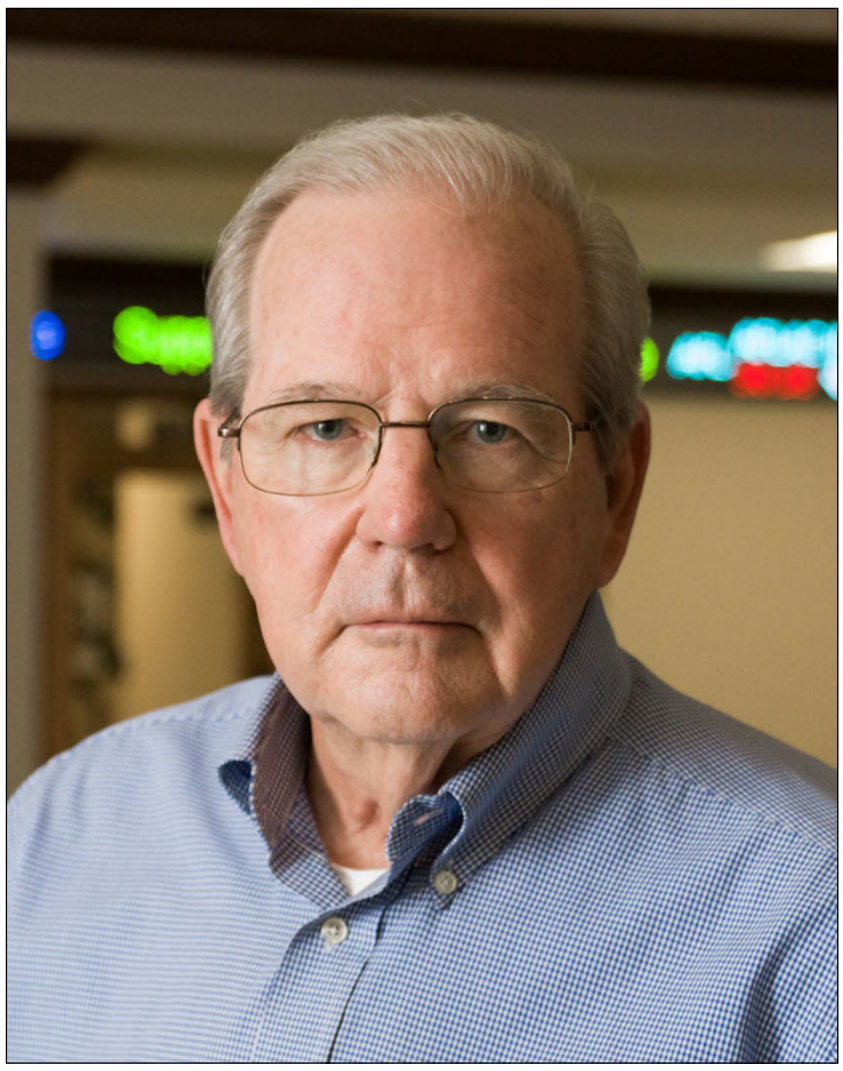
Supporting the arts and Troy University have always been two causes near and dear to Dr. Manley Johnson. Since retiring from daily business at his company, Dr. Johnson, a TROY alumnus, has been able to devote more time to these areas of interest and philanthropic ventures.

When the TROY family decided to pursue publishing a collection of the works of internationally celebrated artist Nall Hollis, they talked to Dr. Johnson about this idea. Because of his enthusiasm and support of this endeavor, he made a generous gift to TROY to support the publication of a book entitled *Nall at TROY: An Internationally Regarded Alabama Artist Comes Home*.

A substantial collection of Nall's work was gifted to TROY by the artist and is currently showcased in the Nall Museum and Gallery on the Troy University Campus at the International Arts Center. While thousands of guests visit the museum annually to view the collection, this gift from Dr. Johnson will now make it possible to make Nall's work available to art lovers and scholars anywhere.

"Dr. Johnson is a valued alumnus and donor, and we truly appreciate his support of this important initiative to honor Troy University's collection of Nall's work," said Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development. "I know this gift was given out of his respect for Nall's artistic achievements and Dr. Johnson's devotion to TROY for which we are truly grateful."

Having known Nall while growing up in Troy, Dr. Johnson didn't hesitate to donate funds to sponsor the book's publication. "I think it's only fitting that a book will be published to describe Nall's association with TROY, the development of his art, and to catalog an important part of his collection," said Dr. Johnson. "I think this book will be a great way for people to learn about Nall and his work, as well as what TROY is doing to promote the arts. The book is also a significant contribution to the fine art world, not just at TROY, but also nationally and internationally. It will provide outreach for TROY and will give people access to Nall everywhere."



Dr. Manley Johnson

"I think this book will be a great way for people to learn about Nall and his work, as well as what TROY is doing to promote the arts."

– Dr. Manley Johnson

Dr. Johnson and Nall crossed paths again briefly while attending the University of Alabama. Then, a year and a half later, Dr. Johnson left to serve in the military. After his service, he returned home to finish his bachelor's degree in economics at TROY. It was around this time that Dr. Johnson once again became aware of Nall's growing success as an artist.

"I was always an avid supporter of Nall because I was impressed with his work," said Dr. Johnson. "I was delighted when I learned that Nall had become engaged with TROY. I think the collection Nall has donated to TROY is a very important representation of his work, and the International Arts Center created by Janice Hawkins and Chancellor Hawkins is a wonderful facility in which to house and showcase his work."

Dr. Johnson said having the International Arts Center and the Nall Museum and Gallery on campus adds tremendous value to the University, and he is glad that students have the opportunity to take advantage of it. "The museum is not only a great achievement for TROY, but it makes an education here so much more enriching," says Dr. Johnson. "Not many universities have this type of facility devoted to the visual arts on campus, which, I believe, truly makes TROY special.

Having seen the impact that the arts can have on a community firsthand, Dr. Johnson said he is glad to see the University continuing to offer experiences like these to its student body. He believes the addition of this published collection of Nall's work will generate more interest in the arts. "The arts in higher education are an important part of a civilized society and the advancement of culture," said Dr. Johnson. "I know that as long as I live, I will be actively involved in supporting the arts."

"Even though Troy is not a big city, it probably has more cultural and artistic development than many large cities," said Dr. Johnson. "We are fortunate in that we have a great opportunity for TROY students to be able to enjoy both the International Arts Center and the Nall Museum on campus and the Johnson Center for the Arts in downtown Troy."

Dr. Johnson is proud of TROY's growth and development into a powerhouse institution, and he wants that momentum to continue. He also encourages TROY alumni to give back to the University in order to provide the University with the opportunity to continue to promote academic innovation, provide students with unique experiences and hire the best faculty in the nation.

"Dr. Manley Johnson is a model alumnus whose support of TROY ranges from the fine arts to the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy which bears his name. His most recent gift will allow us to tell the remarkable story of Nall, a celebrated artist with Troy roots who today enjoys international acclaim," said Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. "We greatly appreciate Dr. Johnson's generous gift and continued devotion to his alma mater."

To preorder your copy of the Nall at TROY: An Internationally Regarded Alabama Artist Comes Home, please contact Meredith Welch in the Office of Development at 334-670-3608.

Stacy Faison Establishes Scholarship Through Legacy Gift

Growing up, Stacy Faison says he felt a unique connection with Troy University. He describes that warm familiarity as a force that would one day inspire him to attend the University and earn, not only one, but two degrees.

"It's hard to express in words how special TROY is to me because it was one of the key experiences that made a difference in my life," says Faison. "My education and diverse social experiences prepared me well for my career in banking and finance, and the small-town family atmosphere was perfect for me."

While attending TROY, Faison earned his BSBA in accounting and his master's degree in business administration. Beginning his career as a Management Associate, Faison has progressed to his current role as Regional President of Troy Bank & Trust thanks in part to the education he received as a TROY alumnus.

Through his wife's career as a social worker, Faison says he also developed a passion for supporting youth in the foster care system or those that had recently been adopted.

The Faisons' shared desire to help meet the needs of those children led them to establish a foundation specifically for fostered and adopted children.

After spending more time with the older youth transitioning into college, the Faisons decided to partner with TROY to leave a legacy gift that would establish an endowed scholarship that could lend a hand to these prospective students.

"My wife and I both have a special place in our hearts for TROY, and as we worked with older youth about to go to college, it became more evident that they could use some additional support," says Faison. "That was when our thoughts and prayers led us to explore establishing an endowed scholarship that would benefit currently fostered or recently adopted students who want to attend college as our legacy to TROY and to these students in need."

To students who might receive this scholarship, Faison's advice is simple: don't let it go to waste. An education is priceless, and an opportunity to receive an education at TROY is one that should be taken very seriously.

"Stacy Faison embodies the TROY Spirit in every way. He thinks, feels and acts with a vision of a better world where we all lift one another up, and he understands the power of a TROY education to make a difference," says Major General Walter Givhan, Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Economic Development. "His gift will change lives."

Faison cites his wife's work as a leading inspiration for the couple's generosity, saying, "This gift is even more special because it serves as a tribute to my wife for her devoted and passionate 25-year social work career, primarily serving foster and adoptive youth." Further, Faison also credits hope for his daughter's future as another important reason to dig deep and give. "We have been blessed with a wonderful daughter who can share in this opportunity to give back to such a special place for her parents," he says. "We believe it will increase her awareness of giving back so she will continue our legacy and hers through the next generation with legacy giving."

Stacy Faison

"I'm always going to be a supporter of TROY, and I pray God will continue to bless the University, sustain it and move it forward."

– Stacy Faison

Regardless of the studies they pursue, Faison asks students to always bring their best work to the table, and he encourages them to make an impact not only in their circle of influence but also globally.

"An education is something that can't be taken away from you," says Faison. "It allows you to live a lifestyle and a career path that is rewarding and enhancing. It's an opportunity you should really maximize by being the best at everything you do."

Faison says TROY has always been a pioneer among institutions when it came to incorporating distance learning and being a global presence, and he believes these attributes will only increase the impact TROY graduates will make on the world.

"Once you graduate from Troy University, yes, you move on in a professional realm, but you're always going to be a part of TROY," says Faison. "Your degree is always going to say TROY, so why would you not want TROY to be the best University?"

Faison believes it's imperative that alumni lead the charge when it comes to recruiting and supporting the University through philanthropic efforts. Because of this, he says he is always willing to volunteer and lend a hand, whether that's participating in events, creating financial opportunities for students or serving on boards at the University.

"Stacy has been one of those great Trojans who has served as the go-to person for many different initiatives; he always steps up to the plate to serve the University when needed," says Kathy Ninas, Regional Director of Development for TROY. Faison believes that TROY's future is unlimited, and he sees tremendous opportunities for the University, student body and alumni to continue to grow within Alabama, the United States and across the globe.

"I would love to see our University continue to be a leader not only in the educational realm but also in the political realm," says Faison. "I think it's important for TROY to continue to be a leader in global peace and to be able to bring about a spirit of unity in our country. I'm always going to be a supporter of TROY, and I pray God will continue to bless the University, sustain it and move it forward."

About the Phenix City Campus

Situated along the beautiful banks of the Chattahoochee River, the Phenix City Campus aims to meet the unique needs of adult learners. Night, weekend and online course offerings make completing your degree or continuing your education convenient and flexible.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Dionne Rosser-Mims as the Phenix City Campus' new Vice Chancellor and look forward to reaching new heights under her leadership.

Chancellor's Invitational Golf Tournament Great Success

The 2020 Chancellor's Invitational Golf Tournament was held on Sept. 23, 2020, and set a record with 152 players participating at the Robert Trent Jones Capitol Hill Golf Course in Prattville.

The golfers had a great day on the links and raised more than $68,000 for the John W. Schmidt Student Athletic Ministry. Thanks to presenting sponsor Troy Bank & Trust, all additional sponsors, as well as the players and participants who helped make this day a success!

Jeff Kervin, Troy Bank & Trust President & Presenting Sponsor and Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr.

Judge Hardy McCollum, Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Rep. Alan Boothe, Buddy Eslava, Brian Higdon and Bruce Higdon

Jeff Kervin, John Ferguson, Gen. Ed Crowell and Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr.

Dr. David Bronner, Marc Green, Bruce Hodges and Pat Mathews

Larry Mickwee, Dr. John Schmidt, Frank Bruce and Jack Hopping

First Place Team – Legislative Course Troy Bank & Trust: Jason Ellis, Joey Holley, Bob Mills and Ronny Mobley

First Place Team – Judge Course Troy Regional Medical Center: Chris Bray, Reagan Smith, Rick Smith and Kevin Bray

Joey Holley, Closest to the Pin and Ronny Mobley, Longest Drive – Legislative Course

Dr. Mickey DiChiara and Michael DiChiara, Longest Drive – Judge Course

Becky Watson and Dr. Katherine Leigh, Winner of the Ball Drop

Dr. Joe Simpson Establishes Educational Endowment Scholarship Fund

Growing up in the neighboring town of Opp, Dr. Joe Simpson was well acquainted with Troy University as a high school student, although he admits he wasn't always sure he would be cut out for college life.

With encouragement from his teachers and counselors, Dr. Simpson went on to not only earn his bachelor's degree in English education from TROY but to also earn a master's degree in counselor education at the University of South Alabama, a specialist's degree in counselor education at Auburn University and a doctorate in higher education from Nova University. He later returned to TROY to complete additional graduate courses and became certified to teach English at the collegiate level.

As someone who initially doubted his ability to pursue an education, Dr. Simpson wanted to create a way to help students in similar situations, which led him to make the important decision to leave a generous legacy gift to Troy University, establishing the Joe Simpson Educational Endowment Scholarship Fund.

"Many people I grew up with didn't have the money or incentive to go to school. I was trying to provide that incentive for people with this gift," says Dr. Simpson. "I wanted to help ensure that people who needed inspiration and help along the way could get it. I feel like this is just my small part to help people."

"Troy University is very appreciative of the generous and thoughtful legacy gift that Joe Simpson has left to establish this scholarship," says Becky Watson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development. "It will be especially meaningful to so very many students that might not otherwise be able to pursue a college education."

Dr. Joe Simpson

"We as alumni give back because we want to support those that are coming along now."

– Dr. Joe Simpson

Dr. Simpson believes it's important for TROY's alumni to stay actively involved with the University, as this enables them to give back to future students and provide them with every chance for success.

Along with being active helpers of the University, Simpson encourages alumni to make an effort to invest in the small-town communities around TROY. He says he knows firsthand how instrumental teachers and counselors can be in helping determine the path a student will follow.

"We as alumni give back because we want to support those that are coming along now," says Dr. Simpson. "Students need mentors helping them with the design of their curriculum. Advising students is vital to their success."

He hopes with more alumni getting involved with education on the ground level, more students will realize their full potential and not be held back by disbelief or lack of confidence in themselves.

Dr. Simpson encourages students to set their minds on what they want to do, continue to work toward it and seek the advice of advisors and instructors along the way, as they can help students determine the long term benefits a degree could offer.

"I want to get it across to students that it is possible to earn a degree, no matter where you come from," says Dr. Simpson. "You shouldn't let your background determine what you pursue and where you try to go."

Patels Make Gift to Phenix City Campus' Partners for Progress Initiative

Investing in the local community is a top priority for the TROY Phenix City Campus. Partners for Progress is one of the most effective initiatives encouraging interdependent support between the University and its neighbors.

"Partners for Progress is a way to recognize our committed partners in the community for supporting the initiatives of the Phenix City Campus," says Kathy Ninas, Regional Director of Development for TROY. "This is an opportunity for our community to express the value TROY's presence brings to the area and vice-versa. It's a partnership between like-minded local institutions."

When the opportunity arose for Rinkesh and Matt Patel, President and Executive Vice President of Ram Hotels, to invest in the Partners for Progress initiative, the brothers didn't hesitate to donate a generous gift of $25,000.

"The Partners for Progress initiative celebrates local leadership and robust relationships with the University," says Dr. David White, recently retired Vice Chancellor of the Phenix City campus. "We are humbled by and particularly grateful for the Patels' generosity and support for TROY's community engagement mission in the Chattahoochee Valley."

"TROY and Dr. David White are pillars of the community, doing much of the heavy lifting to enrich our area," says Rinkesh Patel. "TROY is invested in the community, in Phenix City, and in the future health of the area immediately around both the campus and the hotel. That investment was an example for us, and it inspired us to do likewise. When TROY asked for support, we did not shy away from it, and we did not hesitate at all to give."

Rinkesh Patel

Matt Patel

"TROY is invested in the community...That investment was an example for us, and it inspired us to do likewise."

– Rinkesh Patel, President, Ram Hotels

Although the Patel brothers did not attend TROY, they were introduced to the University in 2013 when they began plans for the Courtyard Marriott Hotel near the campus. "At the time, there wasn't much infrastructure on the riverfront," says Rinkesh. As two neighboring organizations effecting positive change, Rinkesh says having a singular unified vision with TROY was critical for the revitalization of the area.

The brothers believe it's of paramount importance to invest in the community and institutions like the Phenix City Campus, as it strengthens the bonds of mutual support between each. That investment also begins building a solid foundation for future businesses and development.

"Rinkesh and Matt are exceptional community partners, and they emphatically support the bi-state communities," says Ninas. "Our communities on both sides of the river have rallied behind our campus because of our mission to serve. It was crucial to have someone step up and take the lead in this initiative, and Rinkesh and Matt have been exceedingly generous to support that."

The brothers always consider their associates and owners when looking for investments, but they also consider the community as part of their stakeholders in whatever they do. "This is our way of making sure stakeholders in the community are taken care of," says Rinkesh Patel.

Going forward, the brothers say they want to support the endeavors of TROY in any way they can. Rinkesh says this is just a small token from him and his brother to be able to support the overarching vision of TROY.

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.

Celebrating the Legacy and Generosity of Dr. Fred B. Davis

The memory of Dr. Fred B. Davis will live on in the successes of new students at Troy University thanks to a generous legacy gift funding the Fred B. Davis Pre-Law Scholarship. Recognized as a groundbreaking faculty member with a decades-long tenure at TROY, former colleagues and students alike agree that Dr. Davis' $100,000 gift aligns perfectly with the values he embodied as an educator and a mentor. "Fred Davis epitomized the culture of caring at Troy University," noted Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. in comments announcing the newly-renamed Fred B. Davis Scholarship Brunch. "He believed that tough love was the best love, and we have a generation of Trojans who have benefited from his wisdom and his guidance." Meredith Welch, Special Events Coordinator for TROY's Office of Development, echoed Chancellor Hawkins' sentiments, saying, "Mr. Fred lived our TROY motto every day: educate the mind to think, the heart to feel, and the body to act. He embodied that in everything he did. If you knew him in any way, he impacted your life."

Affirming Dr. Davis' sweeping positive influence on TROY and its people, it was former student Jane Beasley who originally established the Fred B. Davis Pre-Law Scholarship in the name of her late mentor. Beasley explained that, after taking great care to consider the best way to honor the man who had changed the trajectory of her life, a scholarship fund was the natural choice. "I couldn't think of anything that he would like more than to assist students who want an education," she said. "I identify Fred not as someone who saw teaching as a profession — not as a career — but as a calling."

Beasley is far from the only former student with whom Dr. Davis made a meaningful connection. Teresa Johnson remembered her late professor fondly. "His belief in me changed my life," she said. "He was always in our corner as students. He believed in us when we didn't believe in ourselves." Similarly, Tim Downing built a great bond of trust with Dr. Davis. Downing described the pair's relationship as almost paternal, remarking that "He was like a father to me. He just gave me all kinds of direction to go. Any problem I had, I could come to him."

Dr. Davis' warmth and approachability were obvious to his coworkers as well. Nick Cervera, TROY alumnus and University Attorney, framed his associate's profound passion for all things TROY in no uncertain terms. "He loved TROY. He loved the University. He loved the city," Cervera said. And when it came to Dr. Davis' own role in that place he so loved, it was clear to Cervera that "He understood the students. He understood their needs. He understood their concerns, and he was always available to counsel with them, not only about academic matters but life matters."

The late Dr. Fred B. Davis and Jane Beasley

> "Fred Davis epitomized the culture of caring at Troy University."
>
> – Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Davis contributed greatly to the enrichment of the TROY experience for all who would come after him. Among many distinctions, the Trojan family will remember Dr. Davis for authoring the first faculty handbook, serving as faculty athletics representative for 25 years, and for assisting the Office of Development with the creation of new scholarships after his retirement. And while he worked tirelessly to reach such ambitious goals, he never lost sight of the human element that made his beloved TROY a singular institution. Those who knew him all attest that one of Dr. Davis' greatest qualities was a gracious, personable demeanor. Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. described his late friend in literary terms, saying, "[Fred] possessed the ability that Rudyard Kipling characterized when he said, 'He could walk with kings, yet retain the common touch.'" Friend Elaine Bassett, former Coordinator of the Troy Campus Writing Center, also took time to highlight Dr. Davis' people-first approach to his work. "Fred had the ability to talk with anybody," she stated. "He cared about other people. And that was his life. He gave of himself to other people."

After a career defined by devoted service and selfless attention to the well-being of students, Dr. Davis' most enduring impact will be in the lives he touched and those yet to be impacted by his generosity. According to Cervera, honing the minds and character of thousands was what Dr. Fred Davis did best. "I think that's his legacy — the students," said Cervera. "It was always about the students."

To make a gift in memory of Dr. Fred Davis, you may contact Becky Watson in the Office of Development at 334-670-3608 or give online at troy.edu/give.

TROY Named Among the Most Innovative Universities in the South

- Troy University has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best and 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."

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- Supporting our Athletics programs
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- Purchasing a custom TROY car, motorcycle or watercraft tag
- Making a planned or legacy gift
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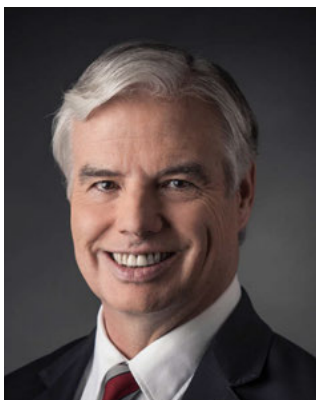
For more information regarding opportunities to support Troy University, please contact:



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