



Reflections. The reflection of the Bibb Graves Hall palladium is shown in the window of the General Academic Building on the Troy Campus.

– Photo by Kevin Glackmeyer

alumnnotes

'50s

Raymond V. Chisum (1955) was recently selected as the 2006 inductee for the Opp (AL) Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.

William Carl Madison (1957), starting quarterback for TROY for two seasons, has been named as a member of the first class to be inducted into the Atmore (AL) Hall of Fame.

Madison coached high school football in Alabama, Florida and Georgia for 45 years, compiling a 326-139-7 record. His career mark ranks him in the top 30 nationally in wins among high school head coaches. He was named Coach of the Year on five different occasions in three states and National High School Coach of the Year in 1988.

'60s

Ronnie Driver (1963) was recently honored for his 35 years of service to the Covington County (AL) School system at a retirement reception. Driver retired as superintendent of education and was lauded for his efforts to provide better schools for Covington County students.

Brenda DiMichele (1966) recently retired after 31 years as a music instructor at East Mississippi Community College.

Claudene Bowdoin Nichols (1969), president-elect of the Baldwin County Association of Realtors, has been honored nationally for her production in the residential sales area, which ranked in the top 2 percent nationally with Prudential Financial. The Baldwin County Association of Realtors is the second largest Realtor organization

in the state of Alabama.

'70s

Sharon Hamilton (1973) recently joined Summit Asset Management, a company that owns and operates multi-family apartment communities throughout the country. She previously served as capital campaign coordinator in the Montgomery (AL) YMCA's Metro Office, worked as a medical sales representative for 14 years and taught high school English in Elmore and Montgomery counties.

Tommy Hicks (1976) recently released his book "Game of My Life," a collection of memorable stories about University of Alabama football. Hicks, a sports writer and columnist for the Press-Register in Mobile, was named the 2005 Hall School of Journalism's outstanding alumnus in print journalism.

Jerry Ulm, Jr. (1976) is the president and dealership principal of Jerry Ulm's Dodge in Tampa, FL, and a former President of the Tampa New Car Dealers Association. He was named Time Magazine's Quality Dealer in 1995. Jerry Ulm's Dodge was recently named the National Dodge Dealer of the Year for 2005 by Daimler Chrysler Corporation.

Dr. Sidney Baker (1977), principal of Sarah Smith Elementary School, has been recognized as one of the sixteen "High Performance Principals" by the governor of Georgia.

Susan Delenne (1979) was recently named director of corporate communications for Energen. She previously served as manager of communications for Alabama Gas Corp.

'80s

Lloyd W. Hulsey (1981) has been promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. A director of operations, Hulsey is assigned to the 815th Airlift Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS. He has served in the military for 21 years.

Alvin Diamond, Jr. (1984) recently received a Doctor of Philosophy de-

gree from Auburn University. Diamond is director of the Troy University Arboretum and an instructor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Phillip Garrett (1984) was recently named chief of the Mobile Police Department. A 33-year veteran of the department, Garrett previously served as head of the Mobile (AL) Police Department's Community Services Division.

Michael Hodges (1985) was recently hired as a commercial real estate agent with Hodges Commercial Real Estate. Hodges previously managed the Montgomery (AL) Stockyard for 10 years.

C. Gibson Vance (1987) was recently elected treasurer for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Maj. Gen. James H. Pillsbury (1989), commander of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, was the featured speaker at the Thomasville (AL) National Supplier Conference. He holds a master's de-

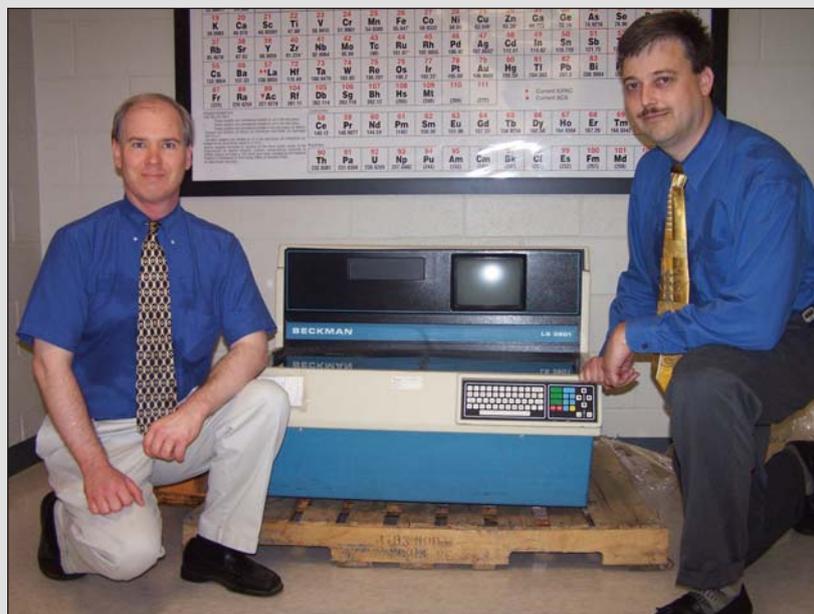
gree in international relations from TROY.

Keith Wallace (1988) was recently named vice president and commercial lender of Colonial Bank's Prattville (AL) office. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing.

'90s

Jim Brook (1991), a Luverne native, was recently named executive director of the Crenshaw County (AL) Economic and Industrial Development Authority, Inc.

Richard L. Gay (1991) has been working as the Purchasing Manager for Baltimore County Public Schools since 2001 and for the past two years the office of Purchasing has been awarded the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement by the National Purchasing Institute. He was elected President of the Association of School Business Officials for Maryland and the District of Columbia. Gay retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years



Alumnus donates equipment. On behalf of the Troy University Physics Program, Associate Physics Professor Stacey Mixon (left) accepts a Beckman Liquid Scintillation System from Paul Drake, owner of ePold. Physics students will utilize the machinery to conduct advanced laboratory experiments on the Dothan Campus. Drake, who is a TROY alumnus, says the donation is his way of giving back to the program. Drake's company, which is located in Bonifay, FL, offers consulting services in the areas of patent engineering, drafting and design animation.

of service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve. Upon his retirement, he received the Legion of Merit award for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

Jon Foshee (1991) was recently promoted to vice president and city manager of the Prattville-Millbrook Division of The Peoples Bank and Trust Co. He has been an officer at Peoples for five years. Foshee and his wife Patti and their daughter Mackenzie reside in Millbrook.

Col. Byron L. Cherry, Sr. (1992) recently published the book "Are We Safer Now? Airline Security in a Post-9/11 Society."

Mark Robinson (1992) was recently named chief of the Hokes Bluff Police Department. He holds a criminal justice degree from TROY.

Fred Sington (1992) has been named assistant athletic director for media relations at Birmingham-Southern College. He previously served as the college's assistant director of media relations.

Jeffrey G. Hunter (1994) has become a shareholder with Nix, Holtsford, Gilliland, Higgins and Hitson P.C. in the firm's Montgomery office. He is a civil litigation attorney.

Sheila Jones (1994) has been named executive director of business and financial affairs for the Jefferson County (AL) Board of Education.

Jennifer Bulman (1995, 1997) has joined the faculty at Robertsdale (AL) High School as a special education teacher. During her time at TROY, Bulman was homecoming queen and a majorette in the Sound of the South marching band.

David Godwin (1995) recently joined AlabamaFIRST Realty as a licensed Realtor.

Jose "Jay" Reyes, Jr. (1995, 1999) was recently named principal of Stephens Elementary School in Scottsboro, AL. He previously served as the assistant principal at Alexander City Middle School and taught math for seven years at G.W. Long High School in Skipperville.

Shannon Chandler (1996) has been named maintenance manager at International Paper Riverdale Mill. A native of Monroeville who now resides in Selma (AL), Chandler holds a master's degree in business administration

A Passion for Painting



Artist traces successful career to his TROY experience

By Andy Ellis

Since his childhood days in Selma, AL, there has been one constant in Kirk Miller's life – art.

The 1975 Troy University graduate is an accomplished artist whose work dots the walls of galleries, as well as the pages of magazines, books and videos, and is featured prominently in many private collections.

"I think all kids have that interest in them to create art, some just innately pick things up quicker than others and choose to practice and develop that interest more keenly than others," Miller said from his Tustin, CA, studio, only a few miles from his home in the Southern California city. "I just had a particular interest and kept practicing. It is just something I always did."

While his interest in art dates back to his childhood, Miller traces much of his development as an artist back to his days at TROY studying under renowned illustrator and portrait painter and former professor Woodi Ishmael.

"Two things I encountered at TROY were very helpful to me," Miller recalls. "The student body was very talented, and we challenged and





Above, this portrait of Bob Marley is a part of Miller's series of paintings of famous musicians. Bottom left, North Laguna Beach is depicted in this landscape by Miller.

pushed each other. Woodi provided me with my first opportunity to see a true artist at work. I became his assistant and had the opportunity to teach some of his drawing classes. Woodi would allow me to come in and watch him paint. You could see the intricacies of what he was doing. That is so valuable to an artist," he said. "You still have to figure it out on your own, but it is invaluable to be

able to view an artist at work. You can talk about it all you want, but if you can't see it done, it loses so much in the translation."

The opportunity to study under Ishmael was one that almost didn't come to fruition for Miller. At age 12, he moved to Australia and soon developed another passion in his life – golf.

"I began playing golf and used to

caddy for my father," he said. "I got a job as apprentice golf pro and decided that is what I wanted to do in life."

After returning to the United States at age 18, Miller brushed aside the notion of pursuing golf as a career and decided to study art. Bound for art school in either California or New York, Miller learned of the art program at TROY and of the reputation of Ishmael. He enrolled and proved to be an avid student, earning degrees in both art and art education in three years.

"I still have those diplomas prominently displayed," he noted.

After graduating, Miller had an offer to go to work for Disney as an animator, but he saw his future being painted with broader strokes. "I decided I would do something else where I would be able to make some money at it," he said. "I was trained at TROY to be a portrait painter, so that made me in great demand to do demonstrations and lectures."

Miller also found avenues to share his passion for painting with others through how-to books.

"You pretty much do what you have to do to make a living in commercial art," he said. "You find your niche and you just keep plugging away. I've never met a starving artist."

Today, Miller splits time between painting and running an art school for both children and adults out of his studio. More than 150 students take classes to develop and hone their skills and another 60 or so are on a waiting list.

"The Lord has been good to me," Miller said. "I have been married to my wife Terri for 23 years and she has always been such an encouragement to me. You really have to have people in your life to encourage you. There have been so many times that I have just wanted to quit, but Terri wouldn't let me."

Nearly 30 years after graduating from TROY, Miller still expresses his appreciation for the education he received. "Dr. Robert Paxson was the head of the art department when I was there. Both Dr. Paxson and the administration had the foresight to bring in really talented faculty that offered expertise in both the practical and historical areas. You got exposed to everything, and as a result, I received a broad education."

from TROY.

Andy Olivastro's (1996) wife Liz gave birth to two healthy babies, one boy and one girl, on June 2, 2006.

Justin Clark (1997, 1998), after more than eight years of public accounting experience, has been promoted to a principal in the Wilson Price firm.

Judy Jochen (1997) was recently named director of the Barbour County (AL) Department of Human Resources. She previously worked with the Dale County Department of Human Resources and the Dale County Juvenile Court Commission. Jochen holds a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Kathie Ledbetter (1997) was recently named principal of Smith's Station High School. She previously served as principal of Smith's Station Elementary School.

Frank Widar Brevik (1998) received his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Jeremy Alford (1998) has joined the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Marine Police Division as law enforcement officer for the Clarke County area on the Tombigbee River.

Lance Lawley (1998) has been named the head softball coach at McGill-Toolen in Mobile, AL. He is a former member of the TROY baseball team.

Dric Williford (1998) was recently appointed as pastor of First United Methodist Church in Greenville (AL). He previously served as pastor of United Methodist Churches in Crenshaw and Autauga counties.

Stacy Benefield (1999) was hired as an account executive for Square Root Solutions, Incorporated.

Tami Crosby (1999) is the new guidance counselor at Daleville (AL) High School. She previously served as a teacher at New Brockton High School.

'00s

Amy Baker (2000) recently earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in education administration from the University of Louisville and was recognized as the outstanding student for the College of Education and Human Development. She holds a master's degree in sport and fitness management from TROY. Baker is currently serving as an assistant professor at Belmont University.

Ashley Brown (2001) was named vice president of business advocacy for the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce.

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Alumna shares cherished memories with new students

When Stacey Mesler received her bachelor's degree in speech and theatre from Troy University, she took away much more than just a diploma.

Mesler, a 1992 graduate who now makes her home in Ridgefield, CT, works as a tax attorney with the New York City law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy. Fourteen years

later, she remembers her days at TROY as an "amazing experience."

"I was actively involved in theatre,

and we did some incredible productions. Dr. (David) Dye was the director and he was great. A lot of what I learned about the theatre, I learned here at TROY from Dr. Dye," she said, noting that she regularly keeps in touch with Dr. Dye by e-mail.

Mesler returned to the Troy Campus in August as the keynote speaker for the University's second annual Odyssey Convocation for new students. She told the incoming students that they were "embarking on an incredible journey."

"Don't fast forward through your college days," she told the gathering. "Don't approach your studies with a fast forward attitude. Get excited about ideas and learning. Cherish your time here."

While at TROY, Mesler played roles in theatre productions, such as "The Diary of Anne Frank," "The Tea-house of the August Moon" and "The Merchant of Venice."

"If you had asked me in high school, I would have told you that I was going to be a lawyer," she said. "But, I always wanted to study acting. I was going to attend Brown Univer-

sity. One day I was walking past the American Academy for Dramatic Arts in New York. I went in and auditioned and was accepted to the two-year program. My parents let me go. I think they probably both thought that I would go one year, get it out of my system and go off to college, but I stuck with it. There are a lot of aspects of the theatre that translates into other fields. There is such discipline required."

After graduating from TROY, Mesler pursued a career in the theatre in New York City before deciding to go back to school. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from The New York Law School in 2002 and began her new career, advising a broad range of clients on various U.S. Federal income tax issues arising in corporate and financial transactions.

A flexible schedule allows Mesler to work from her home, giving her the opportunity to spend more time with her husband and two children and pursue her love of acting. She is currently playing in "Proof," a production of the Ridgefield (CT) Theatre.





A Trojan wedding. Troy University alums Melissa McCord (2004) and Chris Amos (1995) view the special TROY Trojans groom's cake at their wedding reception. Amos, a former Sigma Chi, and McCord, a former Miss TROY, were married on June 24.

in remembrance

Troy University Alumni

1935- Mrs. Laura Jean McNeil
 1936- Mrs. Annie Barnett
 1936- Mr. Benjamin F. Borom
 1941- Mrs. Madeline B. Cuthbertson
 1948- Mrs. Ray White McCubbin
 1951- Mr. Lloyd M. Crook
 1952- Mrs. Ruby T. Branum
 1960- Mr. William A. Edson
 1963- Mr. Wayne Culpepper
 1967- Mrs. Annie W. Grubb
 1969- Mrs. Dora A. Roling
 1970- Mrs. Julia Tatum
 1973- Lt. Col. Donald H. Threlkeld
 1973- Mr. Johnny W. Peak
 1973- Mr. Ronald E. McVay
 1976- Mrs. Emily Dement
 1977- Mrs. Beverly Grossmann
 1977- Mr. Hayden C. Moore
 1977- Mr. Tydle R. Brackin
 1979- Mr. Warren H. Garthright
 1981- Mr. Donald R. Jenkins
 1990- Mr. Michael Redmond
 1991- Mrs. Kimberly W. Bright
 1992- Mr. William B. Sutherland III
 1993- Mrs. Barbara A. Henry
 1995- Mr. Robert F. Allen Jr.
 1996- Mr. Sebastian Thomas
 1999- Captain Wyatt Cornel Taite, Sr.
 2002- Mr. Joseph Shelley
 2004- Mrs. Candace Burton

Troy University Faculty

Dr. John Templin Meehan

weddings & engagements

Tanya Thompson (1984) to John Arnold on July 7, 2006
 Chris Amos (1995) to Melissa McCord (2004) on June 24, 2006
 Dr. Candice Howard (1996) to Richard Shaughnessy (1998) on May 20, 2006
 Brett Robison (1999) to Brook DeRamus (1996) on August 26, 2006
 Jessica Owens (2000) to Jeremy Rowell (1997) on April 15, 2006
 Robert Ellis (2002) to Abbie Kay Beck (2003) on April 22, 2006
 Lisa Goodnight (2002) to Galen Howell on July 15, 2006
 Shannon Edwards (2002) to Nick Frontiero on October 21, 2006
 La'Monica Shamekia Smith (2002) to Carlos Deaun'te Slaughter on September 2, 2006
 Jennifer Lea Jones (2003) to Obed Ellis (2004) on June 10, 2006
 Tarsha Banks (2003) to Brennis Baskin (2004) on July 29, 2006
 Jessica Buis (2003) to Alan Davis on October 14, 2006
 Jason Burnett (2003) to Amanda Beavers on June 3, 2006
 Dana Sellers (2004) to Joshua Peters on July 8, 2006
 Jennifer Smyth (2004) to Alan Burr (2004) on November 12, 2005
 Ashlee Faust (2005) to Cliff Toliver on June 24, 2006
 Thomas Windham (2005) to Lessie Starrak on July 23, 2005
 Jami Turberville (2005) to Daniel Whillock on July 8, 2006
 Amanda Barrentine (2005) to Allen Adams (2006) on May 20, 2006
 Amber McGowan (2005) to Matt Whillock on May 20, 2006
 Hannah Warren (2005) to Ben Taylor on May 20, 2006
 Heather Willis (2005) to Benjamin Turvin (2005) on June 17, 2006
 Lindsay Kessler (2005) to Allen Stanton (2006) on May 13, 2006
 Arin Clark (2005) to Brent McAliley (2001) on June 24, 2006
 Amanda Wills (2005) to Brad Horn on July 22, 2006
 Jill Jacobs (2005) to Tom Whitaker (2005) on July 15, 2006
 Kimberly Jordan (2005) to Warren Giles (2006) on September 2, 2006
 Jennifer Johnson (2005) to Chad Rhodes on April 29, 2006
 Nathan Lowe (2006) to Tina Hall on July 22, 2006
 Alecia Farmer (2006) to Paul Hutchinson on September 16, 2006
 Courtney Bowles (2006) to Kevin Mann on July 15, 2006
 April Hawthorne (2006) to Phillip Henderson (2006) on June 24, 2006
 Victoria McDougald (2006) to Joshua Rigby on May 13, 2006
 Amber Lumpkin (2006) to Paul Chancey on August 19, 2006

Jon Chancey (2001) has been promoted to manager of Wilson Price Certified Public Accountants. A certified public accountant, Chancey received his bachelor's and master's degrees from TROY. He has been employed by the firm for six years.

Erin Gilmore (2002) has been accepted to the College of Medicine at the University of South Alabama. She graduated summa cum laude with a degree in biology from TROY and holds a master's degree in nutrition from Auburn.

Charles H. Holmes (2002) has recently published his first book, *The Little Book About Big Success*. He served in Iraq with the Army and received the Bronze Star. He is serving as a Captain with the Maryland Army National Guard.

Kim Martin (2002) was hired as an operations coordinator for Square Root Solutions, Incorporated.

Davern Williams (2003) is serving as defensive line coach for the Huntingdon College football team.

Mary Ann Henderson (2003) has been accepted to Jones Law School in Montgomery, Alabama.

Tim Lutz (2003) recently joined the Huntingdon College Athletic Department staff as sports information director. The Dothan (AL) native was a member of the Sound of the South marching, concert and pep bands and served as an athletics media relations intern while at TROY.

John Phillips (2003) is the new band director at Thomasville (AL) High School.

Amanda Rainey (2003, 2006) was recently named assistant band direc-



Tiny TROY fans

Cheering on the Trojans. This future Trojan cheerleader is the 10-month-daughter of Troy University alums Lara Smith Kolmetz (1999, 2000) and Adam Kolmetz (1999). The photos were taken during a recent visit to the Troy Campus.



Trojan spirit. Eleven-month-old Francis Merrin Tommie, daughter of Joe and Traci Moore Tommie, shows off some TROY spirit. Francis is the granddaughter of Tony and Norma Moore, both TROY graduates.

tor at Carroll High School in Ozark, AL.

Jessica Cain (2004) recently joined Birmingham's Style Advertising, Incorporated as a media assistant. She holds a degree in print journalism and public relations from TROY.

First Lt. Joshua Whiddon (2004) recently completed Basic Airborne Training and is serving with the Army's newest Airborne unit, "The Golden Lions." He and his wife Leslie live in Bamberg, Germany.

Maj. Joseph C. Braziel (2005) was recently deployed to Southwest Asia as a member of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing.

Amanda Horn (2005) was recently named the first head softball coach of Greenville (AL) Middle School.

Telaina Wrigley (2005) has been named registrar at Austin Peay State University.

Jessica Sparacino (2006) was just hired to work in the trace evidence unit at the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia.

***We want to hear from you!** Share your accomplishments or latest news with your former classmates. Submit your information online by clicking the alumni information link on the alumni and friends page at www.troy.edu.*

Slain Montgomery Police Officer Houts was former Troy University student

Police Officer Keith Edwin Houts, a former Troy University student, was shot in the line of duty during a routine traffic stop in Montgomery, AL, and died on Sept. 30 from his injuries. He was 30.

Houts, a criminal justice major, last

enrolled in classes in 2004. He began his college career on the Troy Campus and held a leadership scholarship. Houts was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Houts was a member of the Montgomery Police Department for the

past two years and served with the 926th Engineer Brigade of the Army Reserves.

He is survived by his wife Ashley, his parents Barbara and Eddie Houts and his sister Lori and brother-in-law William Holsomback.