Helen Keller Lecture Series Celebrates Legacy of Excellence Despite Adversity

Athletic Training Professor Inducted into Hall of Fame

New Doctorate of Nursing Practice Holds Promise for Future of Healthcare
TROY TIMELINE

1887 – Troy Normal School
1929 – Name changed to Troy State Teacher's College
1940s – Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotions originated in the College of Education
1961 – Troy State College teaching center was established at Ft. Rucker, which evolved into Dothan Campus
1960s – Department of Human Services originated in the College of Education
1960s – Social Work Program established in College of Education
1965 – A teaching center established at Maxwell AFB later evolved into present day Montgomery Campus
1967 – Troy State University College Board of Trustees established
1970 – School of Nursing established at TROY
1975 – Troy State University Phenix City Campus established
1989 – Department of Athletic Training established
1994 – College of Health and Human Services to include: The School of Nursing, Departments of Athletic Training, Kinesiology and Health Promotion, Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work established
2005 – Troy University created
2009 – First doctorate program established in School of Nursing

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On behalf of the faculty and staff of the College of Health and Human Services, I would like to introduce you to our first edition of REPORTS. The College of Health and Human Services is engaged in a number of extraordinary activities, and this new publication will be distributed annually to allow us to share some of our accomplishments and activities with you.

In this issue, we feature stories from all four of our academic units: the Department of Athletic Training; Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work; Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion; and the School of Nursing. These articles highlight new programs and study abroad initiatives, as well as some of the accomplishments of our esteemed faculty.

The College of Health and Human Services is building a reputation as a caring provider of quality academic programs in the Health and Human Services disciplines. We are committed to providing undergraduate and graduate higher education in regional, national and international communities for both traditional and non-traditional students and our scholarly activities are focused on expanding the knowledge base of our respective disciplines of study. In addition, the College of Health and Human Services is dedicated to building sustainable communities through service.

That service will continue well into the future, thanks to developments taking place today. With the help of the Building Beyond Boundaries initiative and its generous donors, we continue to support the scholarly aspirations of our deserving students in the Health and Human Services disciplines via a number of scholarships designed to meet their academic needs.

As evidenced by the stories in this inaugural issue of REPORTS, the College has enjoyed a very successful year, and we are excited about meeting tomorrow’s challenge through our quality teaching, impactful research and dedicated service. Please take the time to explore this publication and discover what is happening with your College. We hope to see you on October 24 for TROY’s Homecoming.

Sincerely,

Dr. Damon Andrew
Dean, College of Health and Human Services
Troy University has received a level change approval from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), paving the way for the University to offer its first doctoral program, the Doctorate of Nursing Practice.

“This is a milestone in the history of Troy University,” said Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor. “We are excited about this major achievement for our University, but the real beneficiaries will be the people of the State of Alabama as we increase the availability of highly trained nurse practitioners.”

The Commission on Colleges approved the level change for Troy University at the SACS annual meeting in San Antonio. Chancellor Hawkins shared the news with members of the Board of Trustees at the fall trustee’s meeting.

Dr. John Dew, associate vice chancellor for institutional research, planning and effectiveness, said the decision means Troy University is authorized to offer up to three doctoral programs.

The action by the Commission on Colleges comes a little over a year after the Alabama Commission on Higher Education granted TROY approval to offer the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP). At that time, Chancellor Hawkins said by offering the Doctorate in Nursing Practice, the University will help improve Alabama’s healthcare system, particularly in under-served areas of the state.

“Our proposal was based on the indisputable need for more nurses in the state at all levels, from the associate’s degree though the doctoral level,” Dr. Hawkins said. “These new programs will help alleviate the nursing shortage in our state.”

According to Dr. Ed Roach, executive vice chancellor and provost, Troy University admitted 16 highly qualified students into its first DNP cohort in the fall semester of 2009.

Faculty and students from the Troy University Department of Athletic Training met with Senators Richard C. Shelby and Jeff Sessions and Congressmen Bobby Bright and Spencer Bachus to provide visible support for a bill in the U.S. Congress. This bill, known as H.R. 1137 or the Athletic Trainers’ Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2009, would ensure coverage and improve patient access to physical medicine and rehabilitation services under Medicare B. In addition, it would allow for a wider range of highly qualified healthcare professionals to serve patients. Finally, it would restore the ability of athletic trainers to provide physical medicine and rehabilitation incident to physician’s services.
The 14th annual Helen Keller Lecture was held on April 9 in the Claudia Crosby Theater on the Troy Campus. The lecture, presented by Joel Slack, and complementary supportive events were designed to promote awareness of people who excel in their chosen fields despite physical and/or mental limitations. The lecture is sponsored by Troy University, the Alabama State Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, The Helen Keller Foundation for Research and Education, the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama State Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind.

Dr. Candice Howard-Shaughnessy, chair of the University’s Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion and chair of the Helen Keller Lecture Committee, provided information concerning the lecture for this year, saying, “Current statistics from the American Psychiatric Association state that one out of four young adults will experience an episode of depression by age 24. The American College Health Association recently reported that 60 percent of college students reported feeling things were hopeless one or more times, while 10 percent of students reported seriously considering attempting suicide at least one time. We sometimes do not discuss mental illness, so this year’s speaker will educate students, faculty, staff and the Troy community on mental illness and inspire everyone as he shares his story of accomplishing both personal and professional goals in life, while experiencing a mental illness.”

In addition to the lecture, the University hosted an art show featuring work created by children from Troy City and Pike County school systems that was based on the Helen Keller quote, “I am not afraid of storms for I am learning how to sail my ship.”

Students from the College of Health and Human Services and the Army and Air Force ROTC provided supportive assistance for the lecture series.
Forty high school students with disabilities obtained lessons in how state government works and took part in team building and leadership exercises as a part of the Alabama Governor’s Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) at Troy University on June 7–11.

Some 40 volunteer staff members made up of TROY students from the Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work and former YLF student delegates joined 15 health professionals, hearing-impaired interpreters and instructors on the Troy Campus for the event.

The YLF was co-sponsored by the University’s Institute for Leadership Development, the Alabama Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Alabama Governor’s Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the Montgomery Center for Independent Living, the Alabama Department of Education and Troy University.

Some 40 volunteer staff members made up of TROY students from the Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work and former YLF student delegates joined 15 health professionals, hearing-impaired interpreters and instructors on the Troy Campus for the event.

On June 10, delegates traveled to Montgomery to meet with legislative leaders at the Alabama State House, toured the State Capitol and met with Governor Bob Riley. From there, delegates attended a mentors’ luncheon at the Retirement Systems of Alabama’s Activity Center, where they heard from guest speakers who have overcome the challenges of disabilities.

“We focus on team building, relationship skills and teaching people how to be advocates for themselves and others with disabilities,” said Dr. John Kline, director of the Institute for Leadership Development. “One of our goals is to show these young people they can achieve things even with a disability. Some of these students have never been away from home before; this is a great opportunity for them to have new experiences.”

In addition, Troy University First Lady Janice Hawkins led participants in a discussion of proper table etiquette during a luncheon at Jack Hawkins, Jr., Hall.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM HELPS STUDENTS OVERCOME DISABILITIES

DR. CANDICE HOWARD-SHAUGHNESSY NOMINATED TO CHANCELLOR’S FELLOWS PROGRAM

Troy University Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., has announced the selection of five TROY employees for the 2009 Chancellor’s Fellows Program. One of these coveted positions was awarded to the College of Health and Human Services’ own Dr. Candice Howard-Shaughnessy.

Dr. Howard-Shaughnessy is associate professor and chair for the Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Physical Education and her master’s in Foundations of Education from Troy University (1996, 1998) and a doctorate in Exercise Science with a specialization in Motor Development and emphasis in Special Education from Auburn University in 2003.

Dr. Howard-Shaughnessy serves on many Departmental, College and University committees and provides community service as a board member for the Janice Capilouto Center for the Deaf, the Pike County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, First United Methodist Church and the Troy Miracle League. In 2006, she was honored with the Ingalls Excellence in Classroom Teaching Award. She lives in Troy with her husband Richard, who is the head strength and conditioning coach for TROY athletics.

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The University’s School of Nursing has been awarded a three-year Nursing Workforce Diversity grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop learning and practice communities ultimately aimed at increasing the academic success of students in the attainment of undergraduate nursing degrees. The total award is $888,000.

TROY, which offers the Associate of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing undergraduate degrees, will implement student support programs in pre-nursing courses and retention activities for students in the nursing curriculum. The program will also provide scholarships and student stipends.

The funding will also establish “learning communities” for pre-nursing majors, develop workshops on critical thinking, test taking, computer skills and provide tutorial assistance for students. Retention activities for students enrolled in nursing clinical courses include study courses for national licensure examinations, tutoring and enhanced clinical experiences.

Another key area of the project will be expanding partnerships with area healthcare agencies to provide additional learning opportunities for TROY nursing students, externships and a move to encourage graduates from those counties to practice in those areas. The grant targets primarily rural, medically under-served counties that have serious nursing shortages.

The Department of Athletic Training will be adding new courses beginning Fall 2009. Under the leadership of Dr. Amanda Andrews, chair of Athletic Training Education, the Department will seek re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) in 2010–2011.

Athletic Training Education will partner with the Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work to expand the Study Abroad program within the College of Health and Human Services and expand services offered to communities in Puerto Rico.

The Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion (KHP) is consistently growing and encouraging an increase in the number of grants within the Department. With the increase in student enrollment, the Department will increase the number of full-time faculty members. The Department also wishes to increase the number of graduate teaching assistants, add another master’s degree and eventually add a doctoral degree.

Other initiatives with the Department include the goal of offering scholarships to KHP majors. It will take an estimated $150,000 for three “endowed scholarships” to be given on a yearly basis to deserving students majoring within KHP. The Department is looking to alumni to help with this endeavor. If you are interested in giving, please contact the KHP office.

The Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation and Social Work, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (ADMHMR) and Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities are collaborating on a grant that provides research, development and student participation for the “On Your Own” project. The 18-month grant award from ADMHMR is $182,641.25. Dr. Green, department chair and Primary Investigator of the project states, “The purpose of this grant is for Troy University to research, develop, design, pilot and evaluate an educational program to promote the advancement of individuals with developmental disabilities. It will do this through the provision of evidenced-based empowerment educational/informational models founded on better practices that are culturally competent, consumer-centered materials and methods of delivery.” Students will participate in all aspects of the grant, starting with researching better practices to conduct a mixed methods evaluation.
The Southeast Athletic Trainers’ Association (SEATA) has inducted one of Troy University’s faculty members into its Hall of Fame. John “Doc” Anderson, associate professor of athletic training, received the recognition for his contributions to SEATA and his devotion to the profession, according to MaryBeth Horodyski, the organization’s president.

Anderson, a member of the organization since 1966, has served much of that time as the chairman of the group’s Memorials and Resolutions Committee and chairman of its History and Archives Committee—positions he continues to hold.

“I do things like write obituaries and things for the home office and keep the history and archives,” said Anderson. “My mentor was a founding father of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) over 50 years ago. It’s a real rich history.”

“Doc,” who holds the University’s Ingalls Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching, the University’s most prestigious faculty honor, was head track coach and athletic trainer at the University from 1967–1979. He served as head athletic trainer at Louisiana State University from 1979–1989 before returning to TROY as a faculty member in the athletic training program. In addition, he has served on the medical staffs of both the United States Olympic Team and the United States Pan-American Games Team. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Auburn University and a master’s degree from Troy University.

Other awards he has received through SEATA and NATA are the 25 Year Award, Athletic Trainers Service Award and Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer.