



from the chancellor

One year ago, a federal panel called the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program announced its goal of sending one million U.S. undergraduate students per year to study abroad by 2017. The Lincoln Commission has proposed that Congress invest \$50 million a year to encourage students to study abroad, particularly in Asia and some nations of the Middle East.

The Lincoln Commission's recommendations are long overdue. In 2005, 17 million students were enrolled in America's colleges and universities, yet only 191,000 included a study-abroad experience as part of their educations. This is a little more than one percent, yet we in higher education maintain that we are preparing our students to excel in a global economy.

This issue of the Troy University Magazine takes a look at several of the study-abroad experiences we have offered our students, from photographic safaris to Africa to soccer team tours of Italy. This is just the tip of the iceberg, however, as we have charged our deans at TROY to create at least 25 different study-abroad programs per year—five in each of our five academic colleges—by 2010. Since 1989, we have set a deliberate course of internationalization for this University. Study abroad is one of three key building blocks in this plan, along with recruiting international students to the United States and providing international experiences for faculty.

Keeping with the international theme, this issue includes a story about one of our students, Andrew Meadows, who decided to take full advantage of our global mission and our TROY sites overseas by transferring from our campus in Dothan to our site in Malaysia.

Closer to home, this issue examines what has been one of Troy University's most successful partnerships, our long-term affiliation with America's Junior Miss Program. Some of our most outstanding alumni were affiliated with Junior Miss, and over the years we have been fortunate to attract Junior Misses from Massachusetts to Alaska to study at TROY.

Speaking of alumni, a regular feature of our magazine is news of those Trojans who are making their marks on the world. This issue profiles the three recipients of the alumni of the year award—Mr. Sammy Carr, Ms. Cassie Sanford and State Rep. William Thigpen, along with our honorary alumnus of the year, Dr. James Whiteside. All are worthy honorees who reflect the best our University has to offer.

This issue also profiles two TROY alumni who have taken divergent career paths, although both are extremely successful. Kirk Miller, class of 1975, abandoned his dreams of a career as a golf pro to pursue another lifelong love — art. Stacy Mesler, class of 1992, started as a theater major but has ended up as a tax attorney in New York. She was the keynote speaker at our second Odyssey Convocation for new students this fall and has an interesting story to tell.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Troy University Magazine. I also hope we can include an update about you in a future edition. Please let us hear from you.

Sincerely,

Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D.
Chancellor