

Adventurous streak

Meadows' educational journey goes from Dothan Campus to TROY's Malaysia site

By Clif Lusk

For Andrew Meadows, TROY offers a quite-literal “world of opportunities.”

At 22, the Enterprise native is letting his “adventurous streak” guide his higher education journey. The Dothan transfer student has again transferred – this time to TROY’s Malaysia site near Kuala Lumpur.

“I’ve always wanted to work abroad and the right opportunity came along to study abroad,” he said. “I’m going primarily to study with the aim of staying afterward.”

Working now may not be possible in Malaysia for Meadows, who can’t legally work while a student at Institute Putra, the University’s partner there, but the region has its allure.

“I’ve traveled a lot, and I have family in Indonesia,” Meadows said. “And I’m not really afraid to travel by myself.”

On a trip last year to visit relatives in Jakarta, Meadows said he headed out into the countryside alone.

“While I was in Indonesia, I visited a small town on the West Coast of Java. I got a fishing crew to take me out to the Krakatoa volcano. It was really interesting. Nobody spoke English, but I made it just fine,” he said.

It’s his uncle, however, whom Meadows credits for his wandering spirit.

“My uncle is the inspiration behind this. His life wasn’t on track as a teenager and he joined the Peace Corps. He was sent to Africa and since then he’s worked for non-profits and the U.N. over there. He’s lived in every country in Africa and east Asia,” he said.

Meadows, who transferred to the Dothan Campus after earning an associate degree from Wallace and spending time working in factory automation, had decided to head to Central America.

“I was hoping TROY had a place in Central America, but Ecuador just didn’t excite me much,” he said.

In Malaysia, however, Meadows can be assured of continuing his TROY education uninterrupted. An international business major, he focuses on squeezing as much out of the process as he can.

“I can go to a university that teaches all its classes in English and not be worried about credits being accepted. Whether I stay or come back (to the United States), I’m not losing a thing in the deal,” he said.

He is, however, the first American student to transfer to one of the University’s international locations. That process was a little complicated, but University College staffers managed to work out any concerns as they arose.

“Hopefully, when this is all done, maybe it will make it easier for the next student,” he said.

While Meadows will change more than just his address, very few problems are anticipated.

“I can’t take my truck over there, so I’ll be without a vehicle. But those are just minor issues,” he said. “Part of what I appreciate about other nations is that they survive happily with what they have – their resourcefulness.”

Lusk is a university relations coordinator.



Egyptian ambassador visits with University, State officials

Egyptian Ambassador Hamdi Saleh visits with Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, Troy University Trustee Sen. Gerald Dial, Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and External Relations Dr. Cameron Martindale and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis during a recent visit to the state. Ambassador Saleh and Al Kholi, chairman and chief executive officer of Pharmed and Egyptian Petroleum Product Co., visited with Troy University officials and state business leaders to discuss the potential for business and educational partnerships. The Egyptian visitors were honored with a dinner by Troy University.