

# Thinking of TROY

University honors 'Thinker' statue donor



Troy University officially recognized the artist and donor of its two-ton 'Thinker' statue during a ceremony on Oct. 5.

Mr. Huo Baozhu, the artist and president of De Run International Trading Co., Ltd., of Xi'an, China, made the donation of the sculpture to the University in 2004, but he was unable to schedule a visit to the campus until this October. The statue sits along University Avenue amid the magnolias near the Shackelford Quad and adjacent to the Rotary International Center.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mr. Huo praised the University for its leadership in establishing a relationship with the People's Republic of China and its universities.

In particular he praised the University's 1-2-1 Sino-American Dual Degree Program, pioneered by TROY and now used by universities nation wide as a model for education.

"Troy University has done more than just educate; it brings the world closer together," Mr. Huo said.

Since Mr. Huo's donation of the statue, he has also donated a set of bronze terra cotta warriors to the University. Those warriors will be placed in the new student housing complex when it's completed. Also planned is the donation of a set of bronze deer that will adorn a new park on campus, according to Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., TROY's chancellor. Dr. Hawkins first met Mr. Huo on a trip to China in 2002.

## Building relationships

Deans take part in AASCU's  
Sino-American Leadership  
Initiative in China

Two Troy University deans embarked on a trip to China in October to help build bridges between TROY and Chinese universities.

Dr. Maryjo Cochran, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, and Dr. Don Jeffrey, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, participated in the annual Sino-American Leadership Initiative sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Approximately 100 educators representing 35 U.S. institutions of higher education participated in the program.

"We went as ambassadors of the State of Alabama and Troy University," Dr. Jeffrey said. "Our hope is that this



“He emphasized his interest in fostering a strong relationship between China and the USA,” Dr. Hawkins said.

“China is an emerging world power with 1.3 billion people and the fastest growing economy in the world at 9 percent a year over the last 25 years,” Dr. Hawkins said. “China is also important to Troy University, as we have more than 250 students from there enrolled on our campus.”



Above, Mr. Huo Baozhu, a sculptor and businessman from Xi’an, China, is joined by Dr. Doug Hawkins, president pro-tem of the Troy University Board of Trustees, Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ms. Arlene Jackson of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and TROY students during a ceremony commemorating Mr. Huo’s donation of ‘The Thinker’ statue (shown on opposite page) to the University. At left, during the ceremony, Mr. Baozhu presented a pair of bronze terra cotta warriors that will be placed in the University’s new Student Housing Complex once it is completed.

trip helped to build stronger relationships between TROY and the Chinese officials – we were concentrating on relationships.”

Dr. Cochran said she and Dr. Jeffrey also helped AASCU promote the Sino-American 1-2-1 Dual Degree Program, which began in the United States in 2001, with 40 students traveling to Troy University. The program requires students to study their first year in China, spend their sophomore and junior years at Troy University and then return to China to complete their studies. In recent years, other American universities have begun enrolling students in the 1-2-1 program.

In addition to their efforts to build relationships, the

duo had the opportunity to see some of China’s most famous sights such as the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and Tiananmen Square. They also attended a college fair with students from China who are interested in studying in the United States.

Ms. Arlene Jackson, director of international education at AASCU, said the U.S. delegation split into two groups to cover more ground in China, meeting with university representatives and members of the U.S. State Department at consulates across the country. Dr. Cochran visited Weihai, a port and tourist city in eastern China, while Dr. Jeffrey visited Chengdu, a metropolis of almost 10 million people in southwest China.