



On a mission

Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins take part in American Association of State Colleges and Universities' trip to South Africa

Dr. and Mrs. Jack Hawkins, Jr., recently represented Troy University on an 11-day trip to South Africa as a part of a delegation of administrators from U.S. universities.

The purpose of the trip, sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, was to allow college presidents to explore opportunities for partnerships between campuses in the two nations.

The itinerary for the trip included visits to the U.S. Embassy in Johannesburg and tours of college campuses at the University of Zululand, the University of KwazuluNatal, the University of Durban, the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University. The schedule also included a visit with South Africa's Minister of Education, Natedi Pandor.

One stop on the trip that was particularly meaningful to Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins was a tour of the Rosa Parks Library at Soweto. Dr. Hawkins presented library officials with a plaque and an autographed copy of the book *Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue with Today's Youth*, written by Rosa Parks and Gregory J. Reed.

Also during the trip, the presidential spouses visited an elementary school in Soweto, and after seeing conditions in the classroom, members of the group individually made

donations. Mrs. Hawkins said the spouses' group is continuing to discuss ways in which to help the school.

"The children had nothing. They didn't have books, pencils, supplies, food," Mrs. Hawkins said. "Nearly 100 percent of the students were orphans. They come to school with no food. However, there are no behavior problems. The children are very respectful and appear to be happy. They were so excited to have their pictures made that I went to every table and took photos of all the students."



Above, Table Mountain rises high above the harbor at Cape Town, South Africa. At right, students at an elementary school in Soweto have their photo taken by Mrs. Janice Hawkins, who visited the school with the presidential spouses.