

An eye to the future

In August 2005, Troy University completed a five-year process of transforming three independently accredited institutions into a single University, consisting of four campuses in Alabama and more than 60 national and international locations. What lies ahead for Troy University?

By Andy Ellis



Even before Troy University merged its three separately accredited institutions into one last August, University officials were looking to the future.

In December 2004, TROY Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., authorized senior leadership to begin work on a new strategic plan that would map out the University's future through 2010. That process involved reviewing past planning efforts, assessing needs of the University, formulating objectives to help meet those needs and developing a plan for implementation of those objectives.

In March, the Troy University Board of Trustees approved "Troy University: Vision 2010," a blueprint of objectives in six areas - student-centeredness, quality academic programs, internationalization, faculty and staff development, cost effectiveness and strengthening of infrastructure and telling the Troy University story. According to the plan, completion of the objectives will "take Troy University to a higher level of academic quality and institutional excellence over the next five years."

"The new Troy University is at a crossroads," Chancellor Hawkins said. "We have had a significant success in the unification into one university. We must be bold, build on our strengths, values and skills and take the path that can lead to higher achievement

for our University and the state of Alabama."

Dr. Hawkins said the vision becomes increasingly important as the University seeks to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of its students.

"Troy University's future is bright due to our dedicated faculty, inquisitive students, strong educational values, citizen and governmental support, plus investments by corporations, foundations and individual donors," he said. "We have the opportunity to add new programs to meet the current and future needs of increasingly mobile student populations and the economic development needs of the state of Alabama."

At the core of the plan is the continued improvement of the University's academic offerings and student services, not the least of which is the move to offer a doctoral degree.

"Our collective vision for Troy University by 2010 is that it will be a doctoral degree-granting institution known not only as the model of the student-centered university of the 21st century, but also as Alabama's innovative, cost-effective institution, integrating learning with state economic development, doing our best in Alabama while becoming the state's higher education link to the world," Dr. Hawkins said. "By 2010, Troy University will be known nationwide as a center of teaching excellence with programs

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– Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr.
Chancellor

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of distinction in each of our academic colleges.”

The plan calls for the development of a doctoral program by fall 2010, and the process has already begun. University officials have discussed these plans with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, as well as the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

Other objectives in the area of academics include an enrollment of 40,000 students by the fall of 2010, development of an International Business and Economic Development Center to serve southeast Alabama by fall of 2008 and the increase of academic program offerings by 20 percent by fall of 2010.

Infrastructure

The strategic plan also addresses several objectives in the area of infrastructure,

including the renovation or addition of new facilities.

The plan calls for the construction of new classroom facilities – two on the Troy Campus and one on the Montgomery Campus – by 2010. A new facility in Phenix City is also under consideration.

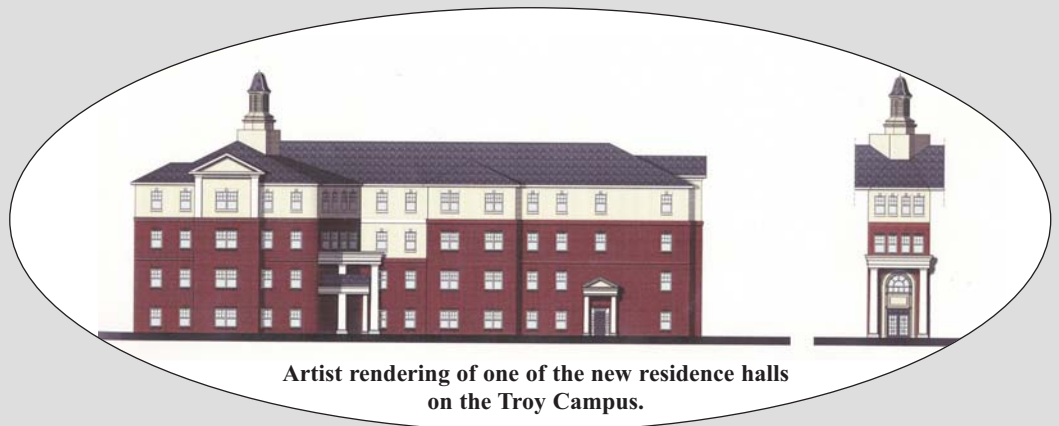
Other infrastructure improvements called for by the plan include construction of new residence halls on the Troy Campus by fall 2008 and the development of a funding plan and preliminary architectural concepts for a new multipurpose arena by fall of 2008.

Internationalization

Troy University has progressively built an international reputation through its program offerings in other countries and the development of a “Global Village” of students from throughout the world coming to the Troy Campus.

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Planned infrastructure improvements



Artist rendering of one of the new residence halls on the Troy Campus.

- Construct a new classroom facility on the Montgomery Campus – fall 2010.
- Construct two new classroom facilities on the Troy Campus – fall 2010.
- Develop a funding plan and preliminary architectural concepts for a multipurpose arena on the Troy Campus – fall 2008.
- Construct an addition to the dining hall on

the Troy Campus – fall 2008.

- Renovate the student center on Troy Campus – fall 2008.
- Renovate Eldridge Hall on the Troy Campus for an Academic Center for Excellence – fall 2008.
- Construct new residence halls on the Troy Campus – fall 2008.

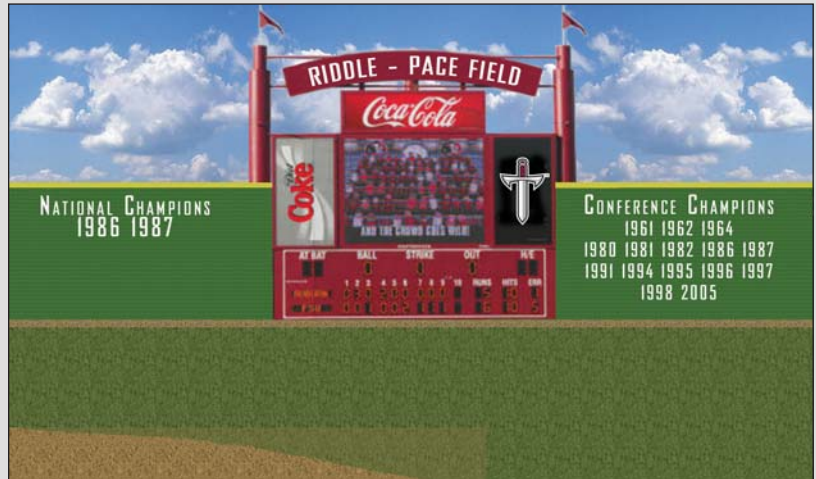
TROY athletics also looking to the future

Like the University as a whole, the TROY Department of Athletics also has been busy planning for the future.

“The strategic plan for athletics is a step-by-step playbook of where we want to go,” said Steve Dennis, director of athletics. “We want to continue to move the department forward as an established and successful Division I program. The leadership of the University is very supportive. Chancellor Hawkins and the Board of Trustees believe a vital athletics program is a part of the total academic process.”

Dennis said that the athletics strategic plan addresses areas such as facilities and staffing that will be necessary if the program is to continue to move ahead.

One upgrade that is already in the works is renovations to Riddle Pace Field, home of the



Improvements to Riddle-Pace Field are among the projects slated in athletics. The improvements will include a new scoreboard featuring a large video screen (shown above) to be located on the right field wall, upgraded locker room facilities, coaches’ offices, a training room and an indoor batting facility.

Trojan baseball team, which will include a new scoreboard and coaches’ offices.

A major project that is facing the program is the need for a new multipurpose arena that could house both men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball and various

University and community events.

“It is going to take the support of the entire Trojan family to accomplish these things, but it is a part of establishing and maintaining a quality athletics program,” Dennis said.

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“We promote internationalization to enhance the education of our students from America,” Dr. Hawkins said. “We live in a global village, and we compete in a global economy. The graduate who is comfortable in this global village will have a tremendous advantage over those who are not. Our students must learn to work across cultural, linguistic and national boundaries. To further these international aims, we have created a ‘three-legged stool’ approach of recruiting international students,

encouraging faculty development by investing additional resources to enable faculty to study, work and travel abroad and providing study-abroad opportunities for our U.S. students. Troy University will be known as America’s international university by 2010.”

One of the most aggressive objectives included in the internationalization area of the strategic plan is the development of five study abroad programs within each college by 2010.

Milestones

The bottom line of TROY’s strategic planning efforts is providing the highest quality of service to students and the communities served by the University.

“We are dedicated to providing outstanding facilities at our campuses, including superior technology and technical support,” Dr. Hawkins said. “At the heart of our mission, however, is our devotion to the welfare of our students, which guides each decision we make. These become the milestones on the path to 2010.”