

Relating to the World

Alumnus Clyde Marsh
finds master's degree
program beneficial

By Andy Ellis

History and political science had always interested Clyde Marsh. So, when he decided to continue his education, Marsh went in search of a graduate degree that would not only appeal to his interests but also be useful in his military career in the U.S. Navy.

Marsh found what he was looking for in Troy University's Master of Science in International Relations degree program. He earned the degree in 1988 after completing his studies at TROY's teaching site at Eglin Air Force Base.

"I majored in history and political science in my undergraduate degree, so I was somewhat of a novice in those areas," the retired Navy rear admiral from Wedowee, AL, said. "With my military training, there were times when I was involved in diplomacy and policy matters.

Of course, being in the Navy, I sailed overseas and there were quite often opportunities for interaction with representatives from countries throughout the

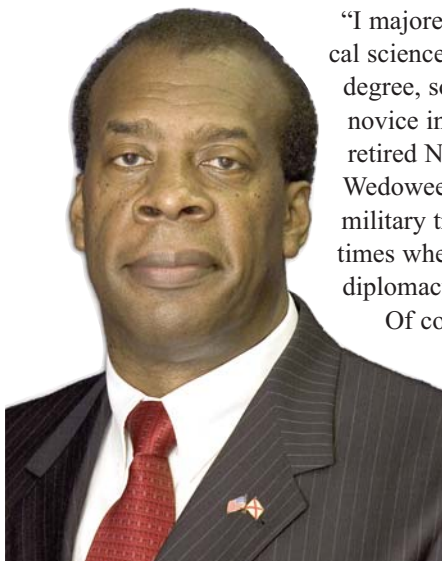
world. I felt that acquiring a greater knowledge and understanding of policy matters, diplomacy and history would be of great benefit. And, indeed it was."

Marsh retired after 30 years of distinguished military service, and last October, he became only the sixth person to be appointed commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs since the department was created in 1945.

As commissioner, Marsh is responsible for all administrative and executive duties of the Department of Veterans Affairs, managing the agency's 140 employees and \$53 million budget, as well as all benefits and services provided for Alabama veterans and their families.

While in the Navy, Marsh served assignments as commander of Amphibious Group Three, deputy director of the Expeditionary Warfare Division, special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations, commander of Amphibious Squadron Five, as well as commanding officer of the USS Sumter and the USS Cleveland.

Marsh also led Task Force 51 during the Iraq War where he commanded 31 United States and Coalition ships and 44,000 personnel. He directed combat amphibious operations at sea as well as port operations



Marsh

at Kuwait Naval Base and Umm Quasar in Southern Iraq.

As a commanding naval officer, Marsh said he often was faced with the task of serving as the United States' representative in foreign ports.

"We often would have to interact with high ranking defense officials and local government officials in foreign countries," he said. "On occasion as a ranking officer, I would have to confirm or work out agreements serving as a representative of the United States. The knowledge I gained through my education proved to be helpful in understanding these situations, the cultures involved and the history behind them."

Dr. Ellen Rosell, assistant professor and director of Troy University's Master of Public Administration program, says military personnel often find the international relations program attractive.

"The Master of International Relation degree enables one to pursue careers in international affairs, government and non-profit organizations," Dr. Rosell said. "It is helpful because of its emphasis on matters of policy, while also providing some historical context from an international perspective. Because of the global studies and national security components, it can also be of great benefit to those pursuing careers in the military."

The program features concentrations in Global Studies, National Security Affairs or Regional Affairs.

According to Dr. Rosell, the international relations degree program is not new to TROY. The program has been offered by the University since the 1980s.

"This is a program that somewhat evolves as world events dictate," Dr. Rosell said. "However, even as the world changes, an understanding of the players in world affairs from a historical perspective remains vitally important. This degree prepares students to interact and think in a global context."

For Marsh, the degree continues to prove beneficial even after his retirement from the military. In fact, even during his military career, the degree provided him with options.

"At one point, I thought of pursuing a career in foreign affairs or within the State Department," he said, "but I decided to remain in the military."

Marsh remains as impressed with Troy University now as he was when he attended classes.

"I really enjoyed my time with TROY. I had great instructors at the Eglin Air Force Base Site," he said. "TROY has a great program that reaches around the world to provide educational opportunities in areas where those opportunities might not otherwise be available. I'm am very impressed and grateful for the opportunity TROY provided me."

Ellis is a university relations coordinator and editor of Troy University Magazine.



Zhuang Jincao, a computer science major from Soochow University, speaks on behalf of the 1-2-1 graduates during commencement ceremonies at Hu Bei University

Twenty-two graduate in University's third 1-2-1 commencement in China

Twenty-two Troy University students from the Peoples Republic of China can now count themselves among TROY's alumni.

The University held its third commencement in the PRC at Hu Bei University in Wuhan, China in June.

The University's 1-2-1 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. The program, officially called the

Sino-American 1-2-1 Dual Degree Program, began in the United States in 2001, with 40 students traveling to Troy. To date, 194 students from 24 universities in China have participated in the program.

When students complete their degree requirements, they are awarded a TROY diploma and a diploma from their home institution.

TROY Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr., and Dr. Curtis Porter, dean of international programs, represented the University at the ceremony.