



## from the chancellor

“The most remarkable university transformation in America” is how Dr. Jim Fisher, president emeritus of Towson University and noted higher education author and consultant, described the unification of Troy University. Dr. Fisher served as the keynote speaker for our academic convocation held to mark our coming together as one university.

This issue of the *Troy University Magazine* looks back at that convocation and celebration, but it also takes a look at some of the things that make Troy University special. For example, since its founding in 1887, TROY has stood for educational access. We often say that higher education cannot be the domain of the privileged few if Alabama, America and the world are to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. That is why we are committed to a program of distance learning that currently serves students across 13 time zones. This issue’s cover story focuses on our eCampus and how it allows TROY to serve students any place in the world, any time of day.

While we pride ourselves on leading-edge programs, we are also proud of our TROY traditions, and one of our most venerable traditions is the record of excellence compiled by our “Sound of the South” Marching Band. The “Sound” turns 40 this year, and we take a look at this remarkable Trojan institution through the eyes of those who have built the best band in the land.

Building a lasting, meaningful tradition is only possible through our network of successful alumni. I often urge alumni of all generations to continue to send us good students to perpetuate the Trojan legacy. George and Aggie King of Bethany, Connecticut, Troy University alumni from the 1970s, thought enough of their alma mater to send us their most precious gift, their daughter Mary. Read more about this family of true Trojans on page 7.

Just a few weeks ago, Hurricane Katrina rocked our region and nation, causing widespread devastation. As a nation, we are entering a recovery process that will take years to complete. I am proud that members of the Troy University family have chipped in to do their part in this relief effort. A look at some of these activities is detailed in this issue. This a good reminder that Trojan spirit takes many forms and that helping one’s neighbors is consistent with the values promoted by this University.

In closing, I want to encourage all alumni to join us on Nov. 5 for our Homecoming celebration. As a part of our festivities, we will honor four distinguished alumni for their outstanding professional accomplishments, civic achievements and loyalty and service to Troy University. I hope you will make every effort to join us to rekindle old friendships, recapture memories and root on our Trojans.

I also urge each alumnus to continue to stay in touch with Troy University. Corresponding with the Office of Alumni Affairs is easier than ever in this information age. Just e-mail our alumni staff at [alumdev@troy.edu](mailto:alumdev@troy.edu) to let them know your news, whether it is a promotion, a career change, an honor or award or a new addition to your family. Through the pages of this magazine, we want to relay your good news to your TROY classmates and friends.

Sincerely,

Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D.  
Chancellor