

- Photo by Tom Davis



Raj Suvarna serves as emcee for the International Student Cultural Organization Festival along with Alina Penjiyeza of Turkminastan.

# T From Mumbai to TROY

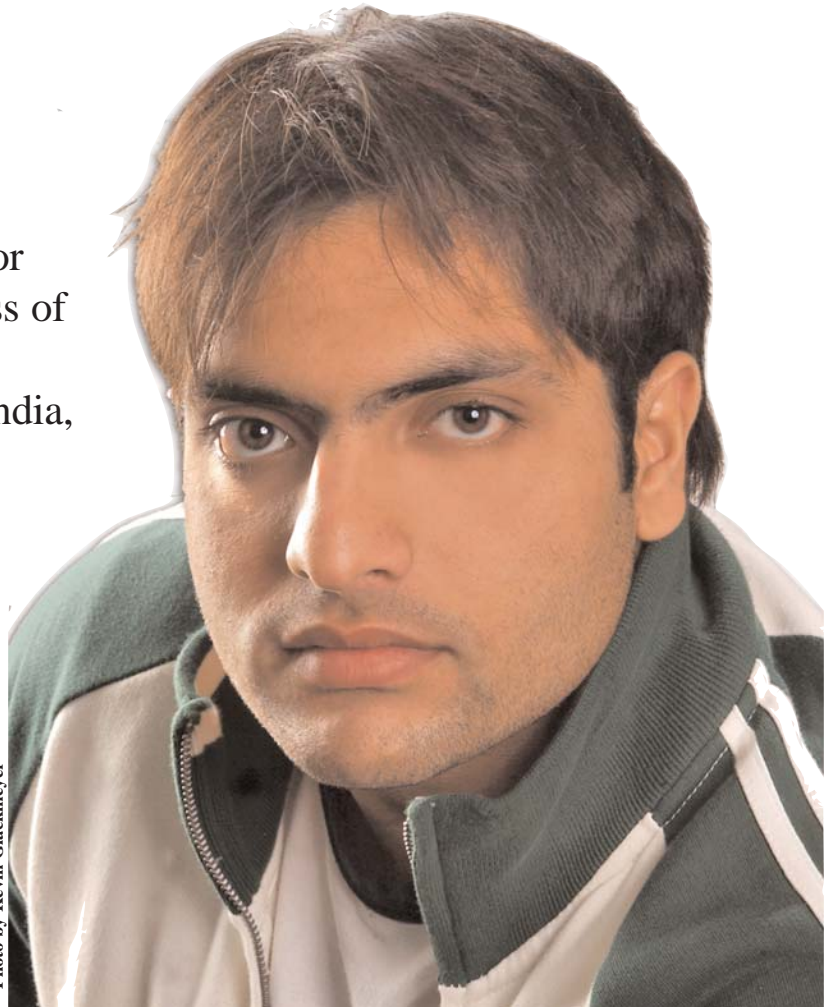
By Torie Hardee

Newspaper ad sparks  
student's interest in University

When Troy University senior Raj Suvarna was in the process of making his college choice, an advertisement in a Mumbai, India, newspaper caught his eye.

Suvarna had returned to his home in Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, after spending his senior year of high school in Los Angeles with relatives and was looking for the opportunity to continue his education. The advertisement that caught his eye was for TROY.

- Photo by Kevin Glackmeyer





**Troy University senior Raj Suvarna visits with classmates in the University's library.**

"I thought, 'an American school in my city, it couldn't get any better,'" he said.

Suvarna enrolled at TROY's Mumbai location and remained there through his junior year.

According to Suvarna, the TROY site in Mumbai consisted of about 150 students.

He also explained that college education is a high expense in India.

"For the average Indian to study at an American school is very expensive," Suvarna said. "One dollar in the United States is about equal to \$40 in India."

In 2005, Suvarna decided to move back to the U.S. for his final year of undergraduate study.

Suvarna said that his parents are not as conservative as most are in India and that they were very supportive in his decision to move to TROY for his senior year.

"When I landed in Montgomery, I had never seen a small U.S. city. Before, for me, the United States was just big cities," Suvarna said. "I like it now, it's more peaceful and quiet, and nobody bothers me."

He also commented on the legendary hospitality

of the South.

"Southern people are pretty friendly, I must say that," Suvarna said.

During his time at TROY, Suvarna has become very active on campus. He is president of the Indian Student Organization, is involved in the International Student Campus Organization (ISCO), is involved in the University Activities Council and works part-time for the student services department.

Since moving to TROY, Suvarna has learned an important lesson outside of the classroom – self-sufficiency. Suvarna said that in India he had servants who would do everything for him, including cooking, cleaning, driving and even tying his shoe laces.

He said he has learned how to do all of these things while residing at Troy.

"I'm happy. I'm going to go home and change how my house works," Suvarna said.

Suvarna will graduate in May with a B.A. in Computer Science. Following graduation, he plans to move back to Los Angeles to work for a couple of years before pursuing a master's degree in marketing.