

Breaking new ground

TROY pursues degree programs in Russia, Australia

Articles by Clif Lusk

Joint-degree program with Vyatka State

Troy University is forging a new partnership with a Russian university that will create the first Russian-American university joint-degree program in that country.

The joint-degree program will partner TROY with Vyatka State Humanities University in Kirov, and represents a new phase of development between the two universities.

“We are pleased that we can move our long-standing relationship with our Russian colleagues into a new era of cooperation that will ultimately lead to greater educational opportunities for not only our students in Alabama, but Russians students as well,” said Troy University Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr.



Danyushenkov

The universities have enjoyed a decade-long relationship, often exchanging students and faculty.

Currently, Svetlana Kuklina, a member of Vyatka State’s faculty, is on her second visit to TROY in a faculty-exchange program teaching English composition and world literature. Additionally, 14 students from Vyatka State have traveled through TROY halls since the exchange program began.

In recent meeting with Chancellor Hawkins, Danyushenkov, rector of Vyatka State, described Troy University as “America’s international university.”

“Why look for someone better? We were attracted to Troy University by what it does in other countries, and we like how the TROY administration pursues developing relationships. TROY is open to ideas and new projects, and we see a lot of positive things about TROY,” Danyushenkov said.

Under the joint-degree program, Russian students will begin their studies at Vyatka State, transfer to TROY for a year, then back to Vyatka State to complete their degrees.

Lusk is a University Relations coordinator.



Ross Olney, Alan Silver and Tony Leech, all of Brighton Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, recently visited the Troy Campus to meet with Dr. Susan Aldridge, Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. and Dr. Ed Roach about a partnership.

A degree program “Down Under”

Troy University is finalizing negotiations with Australian education officials to become the first American university to offer an American degree “down under.”

Working in collaboration with Brighton Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Troy University plans to export its masters of business administration to the state of Victoria. The partnership could also allow for the expansion of the program into the country’s 38-university system.

Vice Chancellor Susan Aldridge, who heads the University’s international programs, said a final agreement was expected within the next two months with degree programs to begin in 2006.

Brighton’s Alan Silver, Tony Leech and Ross Olney, who have been working to develop the part-

nership, each have more than 20 years of experience in Australian higher education.

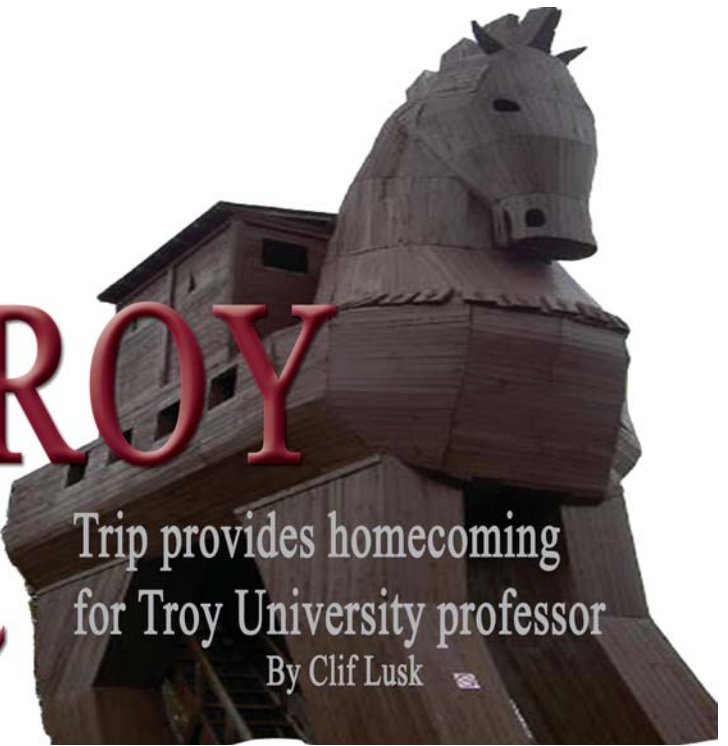
“What we want is to bring American education into the Australian marketplace,” said Silver.

Recently, Australia’s Department of Education, Science and Training approved the mechanism through which TROY will be able to deliver its MBA program, develop a study abroad program and recruit international students. Work has begun on a program that will articulate with the Australian system.

“We have a suitable fit with TROY,” he said, “and the University already has a considerable international experience. In TROY, we find credibility and history with 53 years in multinational operations. It seemed the perfect fit and was very impressive.”

From TROY to Troia

Trip provides homecoming
for Troy University professor
By Clif Lusk



Mention his recent trip to Turkey, and Mehmet Sahinoglu's eyes come alive. Sahinoglu, a Fulbright scholar and Troy University's eminent scholar and chair of the Department of Computer Information Science, is a native of the land where plans are underway for a partnership between Dokuz Eylul University and TROY.

The purpose behind the December trip was to work on an agreement that would bring TROY to Turkey, but Sahinoglu's excitement is two-fold. On the one hand, he had the opportunity to visit his homeland, on the other a chance to help Turkish students.

"I delight in seeing Turkish students benefit," he said. "There are too many students [in Turkey] and not enough colleges."

Although there's plenty of water yet to pass under the bridge before a Turkey-TROY partnership is struck, Sahinoglu forecasts a bright future for Turkish Trojans.

"This way a Turkish student can choose the partnership and study in Turkey," he said, indicating that as CIS head he would be able to teach them through the partnership.

But packing up and heading back to Turkey isn't on his horizon.

"This is my second life and I will stay here," he said.

Sahinoglu has bounced

between his native land and the United States a number of times.

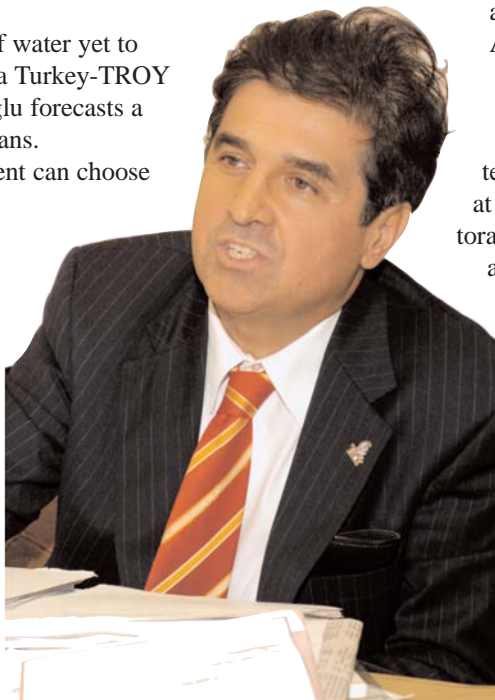
"I spent twenty-six-and-a-half years in Turkey and it's not feasible for my family to go back to Turkey because I feel I'm doing good work here with Troy University's excellent programs. I can also help Turkish students in the future as we realize the partnership in Turkey," he said.

For a portion of those 26-plus years, Sahinoglu, now an emeritus professor at TROY, was an electrical engineer with the Turkish Electricity Authority. He began work there after completing his high school training at Orchard Park Senior High School in New York on a foreign study scholarship, and his bachelor's of science in electrical and computer engineering at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

A British Council Scholarship in 1974 took Sahinoglu to Manchester, England, where he completed his master's of science in electrical engineering at the University of Manchester. His doctorate in electrical/computer engineering and statistics came from Texas A&M University in 1981.

His specialty is in software reliability, and Sahinoglu has developed some of the world's leading reliability models.

A Fullbright Scholarship brought him back to United States from his professorship at METU and landed him at Purdue University. After his



Fullbright year at Purdue, Sahinoglu returned to METU as a full professor and was electric power reliability chief analyst and consultant engineer for the Turkish Electricity Authority until he founded the College of Science & Arts at Dokuz Eylul University in his hometown Izmir. He served as the college's dean until 1995 and was founder and head of the University's Department of Statistics and Computing Sciences until 1997, when a NATO-TUBITAK fellowship brought him back to Purdue. A second year in the States as a visiting professor at Case Western Reserve University led him to Troy University.

Now working with Dr. Susan Aldridge, vice chancellor for University College, the arm of the University that coordinates its programs outside of Alabama, Sahinoglu is passionate about his native land and its rich history.

"People think that [historical] Troy was Greek, but it wasn't," he said. "It's Anatolian. Civilizations change, but Turks are Anatolians," he said. "From the Hittites to the Ottomans, we are Anatolians."

Those Anatolians are passionate about their national treasures as well, so much so that the Turkish government purchased the Trojan Horse from producers of the recently



Sahinoglu, Dr. Ramazan Aydin, rector of Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University in Canakkale, Turkey, and Dr. Susan Aldridge, vice chancellor of University College, hold the Troy University flag to signify the cooperation agreement forged during the recent trip to Turkey.

released movie *Troy*.

"Turkey protected the ruins [of ancient Troy], we've kept the land and we've preserved it," he said.

Over the centuries, artifacts from ancient Troy have made their way from Turkey into museums and private collections across the world – and many were stolen by Nazi Germany during World War II.

"Turkey wants its treasures back. We're the keepers of the civilization,"

Sahinoglu said. "And we're so excited about the historical treasures."

That excitement trickles down to even Turks like Sahinoglu who live abroad. During their mission to Turkey, he arranged a surprise trip to Troy for Aldridge.

"I arranged the trip without [her] knowledge, and it was very enjoyable," he said.

Lusk is a University Relations coordinator.

Students take part in historic commencement

Troy University has conferred masters of business administration degrees to 18 students in Mumbai, India – marking the event as Troy University's first graduation in India.

"Today's competitive global scenario requires us to develop the technical, financial and marketing skills needed to excel in an international environment," said class valedictorian Rushad Kapadia in his Feb. 19 commencement address. "... The Troy University MBA program is a means to help us achieve



our professional goals, our dreams and to broaden our views. Through our graduate studies at Troy University, we have all learned to make better

business decisions and our education will assist us to better formulate company strategies and thereby evolve into better business leaders."