

Work with the Romanian American University

This relationship began in May, 1992 when Dr. Stephen Bowers, accompanied by graduate student John Eves, visited the RAU campus during the first days of the university's operations.



The picture on the left shows Dr. Bowers with RAU Rector Ion Smedescu. Above, Dr. Bowers is shown addressing the RAU student body about the prospects for private education in post-communist East Europe. The picture below shows John Eves, who made a presentation on the educational role of the computer, meeting with RAU students.



One of the most important features of our work with the RAU was created in 1992 when Mr. George Blomstrom of Harrisonburg, Virginia developed an entrepreneurship course in order to prepare young Romanians for entering the world of free market business. This was the first such course to be offered in post-communist Romania. His pioneering effort has continued throughout the fifteen year history of the RAU and has introduced hundreds of students to basic business concepts. Many of those students are now operating successful businesses in Romania and making a great contribution to the nation's economic recovery.

Entrepreneur classes at Romanian American University since 1992



The picture on the left shows Mr. Blomstrom with RAU Rector Ion Smedescu. The picture below shows Mr. Blomstrom with RAU President Smedescu, Professor Ana Maria Preda, and several of the students from the entrepreneurship class that was taught in the fall of 2005.



In May, 2006, Professor Bijan Saadatmand returned to the Romanian American University in order to join the RAU faculty for a short psychology course. Dr. Saadatmand's work with the RAU began in 1993 when, as director of JMU's international students' programs, he secured visas for the first RAU students to take classes on the JMU campus.



Over the years he has been a regular supporter of the RAU and has frequently visited the RAU campus. The picture on the left shows Dr. Saadatmand during his class and the picture below shows him with Dr. Smedescu and his 2006 RAU class members.



Fifteenth Anniversary of the Romanian American University

On 17 April 2006, the RAU celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of its founding. During these years, Dr. Ion Smedescu has accomplished all of the ambitious goals which he set when the RAU was first opened. In order to honor this important milestone, Dr. Ronald E. Carrier, President Emeritus of James Madison University, Professors Stephen Bowers and Kent Zimmerman, and Virginia State Senator Ryan McDougle participated in ceremonies which were conducted on the new RAU campus.



Dr Carrier, whose early support for the RAU was instrumental in the success of this new university, is shown on the left with Valeria Ciobanu, Director of the Nelson Institute of Moldova, and Ramona Tepela, a graduate of both the RAU and JMU, who works with a Virginia-based company which has established a branch in Romania.

Virginia State Senator Ryan McDougle, pictured on the right with RAU President Smedescu, addressed the RAU faculty and students about the United States' interest in the development of educational opportunities in Eastern Europe. Senator McDougle also used his time at the RAU in order to meet with members of the Romanian business community in an effort to develop ties between them and businesses in Virginia. Senator McDougle is the first American elective official to speak at the RAU.





Pictured above during the RAU anniversary ceremonies are Professor Ana Maria Preda with two RAU students and Dr. Smedescu with Professor and Mrs. Kent Zimmerman. As an expression of their Christian faith, the RAU opened a chapel on its campus during the anniversary ceremonies. It is pictured below along side a photograph of RAU Professor Val Poteca and Dr. Smedescu. Bottom right picture shows the official US and Romanian delegation for the ceremonies.

